



Daily Report

East Asia

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NOTICE TO READERS: An * indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

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Japan

Ministers Set Yeltsin's Tokyo Visit for 12 Oct

OW2609025093 Tokyo KYODO in English 0237 GMT
26 Sep 93

[Text] New York, Sept. 25 KYODO—The foreign ministers of Japan and Russia agreed Saturday to set Russian President Boris Yeltsin's proposed visit to Japan from October 12, Japanese officials said. Foreign Ministers Tsutomu Hata of Japan and Andrey Kozyrev of Russia reached the accord in a meeting over dinner in New York, the officials said. It is not immediately known how long Yeltsin will stay in Japan. Yeltsin proposed the visit's mid-October timing in a July meeting with then Japanese Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa.

The president canceled a scheduled trip to Japan in September last year, citing domestic problems. But he later blamed Japan for taking a tough stand on a territorial dispute over four Russian-held islands off Hokkaido, Japan's northernmost main island. Yeltsin also called off a visit to Tokyo planned for May. Hata and Kozyrev are both in New York for a United Nations General Assembly session.

Hosokawa Welcomes Decision

OW2609234293 Tokyo KYODO in English 2314 GMT
26 Sep 93

[Text] New York, Sept. 26 KYODO—Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa on Sunday welcomed Russian President Boris Yeltsin's decision to visit Japan next month, saying he hopes the trip will open a "new page" in strained bilateral ties. The Japanese Foreign Ministry, meanwhile, sought to shoot down a report that Tokyo in agreeing on the visit has given up on a commitment by the former Soviet Union to return two of four disputed islands to Japan.

Hosokawa, in New York to address the United Nations General Assembly, said, "I wish from the bottom of my heart that, through meaningful discussions with president Yeltsin, we will be able to open a new page in relations between Russia and Japan."

"I would like to take this opportunity to reiterate our country's commitment to support and help in the reforms being promoted by President Yeltsin," the prime minister said.

Japanese Foreign Minister Tsutomu Hata and Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev agreed in a Saturday meeting in New York to set the date of Yeltsin's twice-canceled state visit to Japan to start on October 12. Russia's INTERFAX News Agency, quoting a source close to Yeltsin, reported that Hata had agreed to drop any reference to the 1956 Japan-Soviet Joint Declaration in a joint communique expected to be released during Yeltsin's visit to Japan.

"The report is pure speculation," the ministry said in a statement released in New York. The statement said Japan regards the 1956 document—which committed Moscow to return Shikotan Island and the Habomai group of islets off northern Japan—as valid despite the collapse of the Soviet Union.

"As we have stated in the past, the 1956 Japan-Soviet Joint Declaration naturally applies (to the relations) between Japan and Russia," it said. Ministry officials, however, would not say how the territorial dispute would be handled during Yeltsin's visit.

"This is something that will be decided in talks between the leaders during the president's visit," the statement said.

The ministry's sharp reaction to the INTERFAX report reflects the political sensitivities of the territorial dispute between the two countries. The stand-off over Japan's claim to the four islands off northeastern Hokkaido has strained ties between Tokyo and Moscow for years and made the Japanese reluctant to provide full-scale financial aid to Russia. The former Soviet Union seized those islands—known in Japan as the "northern territories"—at the end of World War II. Yeltsin blamed Japan's "intransigence" over the islands in canceling his first planned visit to Japan, originally set for September last year. He also canceled a second trip set for May.

Vice Foreign Minister Comments

OW2709111093 Tokyo KYODO in English 1045 GMT
27 Sep 93

[Text] Tokyo, Sept. 27 KYODO—Russian President Boris Yeltsin's October visit to Japan should be an important first step toward normalizing bilateral ties, chilled since the president twice canceled planned visits to the country, Vice Foreign Minister Kunihiko Saito said Monday. Saito welcomed Yeltsin's rescheduled visit to Japan from October 12, which was agreed on between Japanese Foreign Minister Tsutomu Hata and Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev in a Saturday meeting in New York.

"It is true that relations between Japan and Russia have cooled off since (Yeltsin's) cancellation of a September visit last year," he said. "Normalizing bilateral ties by realizing the postponed visit is significant."

While saying the 1991 Japan visit by former Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev was also an important point in improving bilateral ties, Saito said Yeltsin's upcoming visit should be a step forward from the current situation.

Japan has not changed its position to seek normalized ties by resolving a longstanding territorial dispute and concluding a peace treaty, he said. The territorial row over four Russian-held islands—Etorofu, Shikotan, Kunashiri and Habomai islets which the former Soviet Union seized at the end of World War II—have prevented the two sides from concluding a peace treaty.

Japan has also been reluctant to provide major financial aid to Russia because of the dispute. Saito denied a reported accord with Russia to drop any reference to a 1956 joint communique stipulating the return of two of four islands, Shikotan and the Habomai islets, during Yeltsin's visit to Japan. He described the report by Russia's INTERFAX News Agency as "speculation," adding no such decision has yet been made.

"There is no doubt that the 1956 declaration will be effectively applied" to relations between Japan and Russia, Saito said.

INTERFAX reported Hata agreed to drop any reference to the 1956 document in the communique expected to be announced after Yeltsin's talks with Japanese Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa in October. The Foreign Ministry said in a statement that Tokyo sees the declaration as valid despite the disintegration of the Soviet Union.

A high-ranking ministry source said putting the focus on whether or not the upcoming communique will refer to the declaration is not the essence of the problem because its validity is obvious. But the source added Japan understands Russia's difficulty in addressing the issue with its present political situation.

Spokesman Denies Accord With Russia on Islands

OW2709041993 Tokyo KYODO in English 0400 GMT 27 Sep 93

[Text] Tokyo, Sept. 27 KYODO—Japan on Monday denied a reported accord with Russia to drop any reference to the return of two of four Russian-held islands in a joint communique expected during Russian President Boris Yeltsin's October visit to Japan.

"Decisions on the matter should be decided first and foremost through summit talks when the president visits Japan," Chief Cabinet Secretary Masayoshi Takemura said at a news conference.

"It is natural the 1956 Japan-Soviet Joint Declaration applies to the relations between Japan and Russia," the top government spokesman said. "I suspect the news report is pure speculation."

He said the 1956 document will be brought up for discussion between Yeltsin and Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa, adding details on the anticipated joint communique have yet to be worked out.

Takemura's comment came after the Foreign Ministry's denial of a report by Russia's INTERFAX News Agency that foreign minister Tsutomu Hata agreed to drop any reference to the 1956 document in the communique. The ministry said in a statement that Tokyo sees the 1956 declaration, which committed Moscow to return Shikotan Island and the Habomai group of islets off northern Japan, as valid despite the disintegration of the Soviet Union. The former Soviet Union seized those

islands, together with Etorofu and Kunashiri, in the closing days of World War II.

Hata and Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev agreed in a Saturday meeting in New York to set the date of Yeltsin's twice-canceled state visit to Japan to start October 12.

The stand-off over Japan's claim to the four islands off northeastern Hokkaido has strained ties between Tokyo and Moscow for years and made the Japanese reluctant to provide major financial aid to Russia. Yeltsin blamed Japan's "intransigence" over the islands in canceling his first planned visit to Japan, originally set for September last year. He also canceled a second trip set for May.

While lauding Yeltsin's decision on the Japan trip despite the political turmoil in Russia, Takemura expressed hope the Russian president's visit will open the way for normalized ties between Tokyo and Moscow. Foreign Ministry sources said Monday a Russian Government advance team to lay the groundwork for Yeltsin's visit will arrive in Tokyo on Tuesday. The sources said the team will include officials of the presidential office's protocol section who will consult with officials in Tokyo on details of the scheduled visit.

On Sunday, ministry sources accompanying Hata to a United Nations General Assembly meeting said Japan would soon dispatch a preparatory team to Moscow.

Tsuneo Nishida, director of the ministry's Russia division, is expected to work out with his Russian counterpart a draft of the joint communique, as well as a number of bilateral accords to be signed.

Hosokawa in U.S. for UN Meeting, Clinton Talks

Arrives in New York 25 Sep

OW2509155993 Tokyo KYODO in English 1447 GMT 25 Sep 93

[Text] New York, Sept. 25 KYODO—Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa arrived Saturday [25 September] in New York to address the U.N. General Assembly and hold talks with President Bill Clinton. It is Hosokawa's first overseas trip since he assumed the premiership in August. He is accompanied by Foreign Minister Tsutomu Hata, who will meet with his Russian counterpart Andrey Kozyrev and other foreign ministers.

In his address in English to the General Assembly, Hosokawa, 55, is expected to outline a growing role for Japan and signal Tokyo's readiness to assume greater global responsibilities.

After his speech, Hosokawa will have talks with U.N. Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali ahead of his first official meeting with Clinton. Officials said the first Japan-U.S. summit meeting will deal with divisive trade and economic issues. The two countries are trying to produce a comprehensive economic framework pact based on an initial agreement concluded in July during

Clinton's visit to Tokyo for the Group of Seven summit of the world's major industrial powers.

Hosokawa returns to Tokyo on Tuesday.

Hosokawa on Upcoming Talks

*OW2609101093 Tokyo KYODO in English 0945 GMT
26 Sep 93*

[Text] New York, Sept. 25 KYODO—Japanese Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa said Saturday he wants to establish trustworthy relations with President Bill Clinton when the two men meet Monday.

"I want to confirm with Clinton that the Japan-U.S. relations are the most important in the world. I hope we can discuss things frankly and build trustworthy relations," he said.

Hosokawa met Japanese reporters in New York, where he is visiting for four days until Tuesday to address the UN General Assembly. He also will meet Clinton then.

"We share a common recognition on the need for reform and sympathize with each other," he said. Hosokawa said he hopes Clinton will understand that Japan is implementing structural reform for the first time in four decades.

Hosokawa took office in August as the first prime minister from outside the Liberal Democratic Party in 38 years.

He said he will explain to Clinton that the 6 trillion yen emergency economic programs and the 0.75 percentage point cut in the official discount rate, both announced this month, are "the best Japan can offer for the time being."

Hosokawa ruled out any possibility of additional pump-priming measures being announced when he meets Clinton. He said the government may be forced to make a final decision on rice imports before the December 15 deadline of winding up the stalled Uruguay Round of multinational trade talks.

"Because there is the December 15 hurdle for the multilateral trade talks, it turns out that the government is forced to take a final position (on the rice issue)," Hosokawa said. Japan is under international pressure to scrap its rice import ban in the global trade talks held under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT). Japan opposes the tariffication formula which calls for all nontariff restrictions on agricultural imports to be converted to customs duties.

Hosokawa said although his Japan New Party proposed partial liberalization of rice imports, he will respect a Diet resolution maintaining a ban on imported rice.

Asked about Japan's hopes for a permanent seat on the UN Security Council, Hosokawa said, "We're not going to make a lot of noise about it."

To Back Clinton's Pacific Plan

*OW2709020893 Tokyo KYODO in English 0129 GMT
27 Sep 93*

[Text] New York, Sept. 26 KYODO—Japanese Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa will express full support for U.S. President Bill Clinton's proposal to create a "new Pacific community" when the two leaders meet here on Monday, Japanese officials said Sunday. The officials, accompanying Hosokawa on a four-day visit to New York to address a U.N. General Assembly meeting, said Japan's full cooperation with the U.S. trade strategy for the Asia-Pacific region should have a good influence on economic and trade relations between the two countries.

Clinton, in a speech at Tokyo's Waseda University in early July, said the U.S. and Japan should take leading roles in creating the "new Pacific community" to push for more open economies and promote regional trade. He was in Tokyo to attend the summit of the group of seven major industrialized nations. In line with Clinton's proposal, leaders of the 15 member nations of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum are scheduled to meet in Seattle in November and discuss "Asia-Pacific trading areas."

Kabun Muto, Japan's foreign minister at the time, welcomed the "new Pacific community" concept when he attended an annual meeting between the Association of Southeast Asian Nations and their seven major trading partners in late July.

The meeting of Hosokawa and Clinton in New York will confirm at the highest level the close cooperation of the two countries on the U.S. proposal, the officials said.

Hosokawa Adviser on Security Council Status

*OW2709113793 Tokyo NHK General Television
Network in Japanese 0000 GMT 26 Sep 93*

[Interview with Hidemasa Tanaka, special adviser to Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa, by NHK commentator Takashi Yamamoto on the "Toron (Discussion)" program; place and date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Yamamoto] The Foreign Ministry submitted a written opinion to the United Nations in July announcing de facto a declaration to seek a permanent seat on the United Nations Security Council [UNSC]. Have any changes been made since then in this regard?

[Tanaka] Well, the prime minister entrusted me with the task of preparing the speech he will make at the United Nations. So, I participated the process of its preparation. We had some problems when the written opinion was prepared.

One of the problems was that we did not have enough time to talk about it because of the general election and the people's attention was turned to that. Another problem was that some people felt that Japan was eager

to become a permanent member of the UNSC and that the written opinion was a de facto announcement of candidacy for permanent membership.

Although Foreign Ministry officials made everything clear regarding these two points, some people misunderstood the contents of the written opinion. I was one of them. We thought that Japan was eager to become a permanent member and that it was an announcement of candidacy. So, I felt we had to use different expressions in the speech if a misunderstanding had been caused by the context of the written opinion.

[Yamamoto] Does the Foreign Ministry think the written opinion was not an announcement of candidacy?

[Tanaka] Of course not. We cannot announce our candidacy just because the Foreign Ministry wants it. We have to have the people's approval.

[Yamamoto] As you have pointed out, the situation at that time was somewhat confused. Therefore, you are saying that some people misunderstood its meaning.

[Tanaka] I think this is the most important issue in the history of Japan's post-war diplomacy. If it was in Europe, they would probably put this type of issue to a referendum. I think this is an issue for which a special committee should be formed in the Diet to have through discussions over several years or to solicit the people to take part in discussions. We should make a decision after attaining a national consensus.

[Yamamoto] Those, who are eager to seek membership strongly believe that Japan should have a voice commensurate with the economic contributions Japan makes in the international society.

[Tanaka] I am aware of that very well. The United Nations needs to be reformed to meet the needs of the times. Some people are saying that the UN is loose in administrative and financial matters. Some other people say that the membership of the UNSC is not a reflection of reality and that there is no firm goal or boundary of activity as far as UN peacekeeping operations are concerned. My honest feeling, and the prime minister will probably agree with me, is that we should not become a permanent member of the UNSC now. We should express our hope to become a permanent member of the UNSC after the UN has changed to an organization worthy of the new age.

[Yamamoto] What do you think Japan should do first to reform the United Nations?

[Tanaka] I think the prime minister at the beginning of his UN speech will talk about UN reform; he will talk about the three points I have just mentioned. As you know, the world is confronted with very serious issues—such as the nuclear, environmental, population, drugs, and AIDS problems, not to mention the differences between North and South—which we did not have when the UN was established. We have to reform the UN so that it will be able to settle these new problems, which

have come into existence over the past 50 years. Japan has been making international contributions, including economic cooperation, in various fields, and is one of a few nations which have strong economic power. Japan has a strong voice and influence in the international community. We should take the lead to reform the United Nations by using the influence we have accumulated. This is what we have to do first. We are of the view that we should not waste this influential power by begging for permanent membership.

[Yamamoto] I understand you very well. Judging from what you have said, it seems to me that Japan will not express its candidacy for a permanent UNSC seat for a long time to come. Is not there a gap of understanding between you and the Foreign Ministry?

[Tanaka] A gap between the Foreign Ministry and.... [Tanaka changes thought] the Foreign Ministry itself is an administrative authority. It has to have support from the people. Therefore, it is a matter of when we will form a national consensus. I think we have to have all-out efforts to promote discussions with the people.

[Yamamoto] When do you think Japan should become a permanent member of the UNSC?

[Tanaka] I do not know. In any case, many things will be required if we say that we want to become a permanent member, and we will also have to bear more responsibilities. If we become a permanent member because other countries want us to become one, then we can make requests on various matters, including the ideal structure of the United Nations and the UNSC. I think this is the most important point. We should not eagerly seek a permanent seat. Since some people misunderstood that we were eager to become a permanent member, we have agreed that we should clarify in the speech that we are neither eager nor announcing our candidacy.

[Yamamoto] You have said that the United Nations should be reformed first. But, we would have to be active in making military contributions if we became a permanent member of the UNSC. Is this not the main concern of the government?

[Tanaka] This is one of the concerns. I do not know how Japan will be incorporated into the current system of the UNSC. If Japan and several other countries become permanent members of the UNSC at the same time, and Japan fulfills only a portion of the permanent members' responsibilities, then Japan's influence power in the UNSC will become weak. Therefore, I am of the opinion that we should not voluntarily seek a seat in the current United Nations or in the old house. Instead, we should concentrate our energies on the construction of a new house. If other countries ask us to become a permanent member of the new house when a new UNSC system is formed, then we will have to make all the international contributions we can possibly make.

[Yamamoto] Becoming a permanent member of the UNSC is a very important issue. Nevertheless, we are not having a national debate on this matter, as you said earlier. How are you planning to promote national debate?

[Tanaka] I think there will be a big debate because of the fact that the issue has been brought to the surface. In the past, the government did not appeal to the people regarding this issue. I hope there will be a full-scale debate. We have to have open, wide ranging, and deep discussions because this issue could change the future of Japan.

[Yamamoto] You are saying that we should deal with this issue carefully.

[Tanaka] That is right. Once national discussions start then the Foreign Ministry will become prudent and we will be able to promote diplomacy backed by the people. By all means, we have to have the people involved in discussions.

[Yamamoto] What I am going to ask you next is related to the issues regarding the United Nations too. What is your view of an ideal way of Japan's post-war diplomacy?

[Tanaka] This is something we politicians have to be very careful about. Although we say and understand that a new era has arrived, we still do not physically feel this. What I mean is that a big political structure was dismantled in the wake of the end of the Cold War. Therefore, we can no longer leave diplomatic matters to bureaucrats. The same thing can be said about other ministries too. Both politicians and bureaucrats have to understand from the bottom of our hearts that a new era has arrived where we have to seriously study diplomatic matters to make policy decisions.

To Japan, the end of the Cold War meant that the era where we could only expand our economy has ended. This can apply to economic ministries and agencies as well. I think that an era of politics has arrived at last. Politicians have to make various policy decisions rather than leaving decisions to bureaucrats. Things will likely to go wrong if bureaucrats continue to make decisions as they did before. Therefore, politicians have a very heavy responsibility now.

[Yamamoto] You are saying that politicians have to steer Japanese politics.

[Tanaka] That is right. In the past, we had a fixed political direction and nobody could argue about it. This big framework did not change even if we made various political and policy decisions within it. Since this framework no longer exists, even a small policy decision or political decision can change the destiny of the nation now. Bureaucrats and politicians have to physically feel the changes. The issue of permanent membership, in particular, is one of the changes.

Hata Meets Peres, Promises Aid to Middle East

*OW2709000393 Tokyo KYODO in English 2318 GMT
26 Sep 93*

[Text] New York, Sept. 26 KYODO—Japan's Foreign Minister Tsutomu Hata told Israel on Sunday that Tokyo plans to play an active role in providing economic support to the Middle East peace process. According to Japanese officials, Hata conveyed Tokyo's policy in a meeting with Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres. Both Hata and Peres are in New York for the annual United Nations General Assembly Session.

While promising Japan's financial support, Hata also urged Israel to mobilize its advanced medical and farming technology to help its Arab neighbors, the officials said. Peres invited Hata to visit Israel and Hata promised make the trip as early as possible.

Japan has promised to "appropriate" financial support for the peace process, following a historical accord concluded between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization earlier this month. Japanese sources have said Tokyo plans to extend 100 million dollars a year over the next two years to help Palestinians rebuild their homeland.

The United States has called for an international donors' meeting to be held in Washington on Friday. Tokyo plans to outline its aid plan at the ministerial conference.

Hata, ROK Counterpart on Security Council Seats

*OW2409194593 Tokyo KYODO in English 1510 GMT
24 Sep 93*

[Text] Tokyo, Sept. 24 KYODO—Foreign Minister Tsutomu Hata told South Korean Foreign Minister Han Sung-chu on Friday that Japan's bid for a permanent seat on the U.N. Security Council does not signal a move toward becoming a military power. Hata made the remarks in over three hours of talks with Han, who arrived in Tokyo on Thursday for a three-day visit, ministry officials said.

Hata said Japan is considering the idea of acquiring a permanent seat on an expanded Security Council alongside other major countries so that it can more actively contribute to improving the efficiency and effectiveness of the United Nations.

Noting the existence of views both inside and outside Japan that the ambition reflects a drive to become a military power, Hata called them, "absolutely beside the point." The officials said there was no direct comment by Han on Japan's bid to acquire a permanent seat.

Hata implicitly supported South Korea's bid to take over one of the 15-member Council's 10 nonpermanent, rotating seats, saying he feels the country is adequately qualified. But he added that the issue still needs to be formally considered. The officials said Han lauded

Japan's role in the U.N. peacekeeping operation in Cambodia, calling it "decisive."

Discuss Alleged DPRK Nuclear Program

*OW2409180093 Tokyo KYODO in English 1552 GMT
24 Sep 93*

[Text] Tokyo, Sept. 24 KYODO—South Korean Foreign Minister Han Sung-chu voiced concern Friday over North Korea's suspected nuclear development and urged continued cooperation among Japan, South Korea and the United States to deal with the matter, Japanese Foreign Ministry officials said. Han expressed the concern during separate meetings with Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa and Foreign Minister Tsutomu Hata, the officials said.

Han told the Japanese leaders that no progress has been made in talks between North Korea and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and that talks between Pyongyang and Seoul on implementing a mutual inspection accord have not yet been held either. He was quoted as saying Seoul is making efforts to prevent the situation from deteriorating and that it wants to keep close contact with Tokyo and Washington. Hosokawa told Han that Japan also wants to continue maintaining close contact with South Korea on the issue.

North Korea threatened to pull out of the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) in March, rejecting IAEA demands to allow inspection of two of its suspected nuclear facilities which it said were ordinary military installations. But after talks with the United States, Pyongyang announced that it is suspending the decision to withdraw from the pact.

In the 90-minute foreign ministerial meeting, Han and Hata agreed to support Washington's efforts to persuade Pyongyang to accept the international inspections, the officials said. But the two foreign ministers also shared the view that the conditions for a resumption of the third round of U.S.-North Korea talks have not yet been achieved, they said.

Hata told Han there is no prospect so far of resuming Japan's negotiations with Pyongyang to normalize relations although Japan has expressed its readiness to do so. Hata pointed out, however, that even if the talks do resume, normalization of the ties is difficult unless suspicions concerning North Korea's alleged nuclear development are cleared, they said.

Han arrived in Tokyo on Thursday for a three-day official visit. He will leave Tokyo on Saturday for New York to attend the United Nations General Assembly.

Turning to the U.N. role, Hata, who is also to leave for New York on Saturday, brushed aside suggestions that Japan's bid for a permanent membership on the U.N. Security Council means it seeks to become a major military power, the officials said. Han told Hata that South Korea wants to field its candidacy for a nonpermanent seat on the Council in the near future, they said.

Hata was quoted as replying that South Korea is sufficiently qualified to become a nonpermanent member but that the issue should be further discussed.

In a meeting with Han, Prime Minister Hosokawa expressed his desire to meet with South Korean President Kim Yong-sam when the two leaders attend a summit-level meeting of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum in Seattle in November, the officials said. Han quoted Kim as saying he is also looking forward to meeting Hosokawa then.

Hosokawa vowed to do his utmost to develop bilateral relations in a positive direction in a future-oriented way, saying the Tokyo-Seoul ties are also important for the Asia-Pacific region, the officials said.

Han noted Seoul and Tokyo can cooperate on such issues as North Korea's suspected nuclear and missile development programs and the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade talks, the officials said.

Han did not discuss problems involving women who they said were forced into prostitution to provide sex to Japanese soldiers during World War II, either with Hosokawa or Hata, the officials said. The two foreign ministers agreed to hold working-level talks on Koreans residing in the Russian Far East island of Sakhalin as soon as possible, the officials said.

Tens of thousands of Koreans were taken to Sakhalin during Japan's 1910-1945 colonial rule of Korea when the southern half of Sakhalin was held by Japan. Some 43,000 Koreans have remained there since the former Soviet Union took over the territory from Japan.

Defense Agency Chief Leaves for U.S. 24 Sep

*OW2409142593 Tokyo KYODO in English 1413 GMT
24 Sep 93*

[Text] Tokyo, Sept. 24 KYODO—Defense Agency Director General Keisuke Nakanishi left Friday for a five-day visit to the United States for talks with Defense Secretary Les Aspin. Following a stopover in Hawaii, Nakanishi will meet Aspin in Washington on Monday, officials said.

High on the agenda for the defense ministers meeting will be the U.S.-proposed theater missile defense program, an advanced version of the Patriot missiles used in the 1991 Persian Gulf War, that would destroy incoming missiles while they are flying through or above the atmosphere.

Nakanishi and Aspin are also expected to discuss military situations in northeast Asia, especially North Korea, U.N. peacekeeping operations and U.S. military bases in Japan. Nakanishi will return to Tokyo on Tuesday.

Talks Agenda Outlined

OW2409181193 Tokyo KYODO in English 1524 GMT
24 Sep 93

[Text] Tokyo, Sept. 24 KYODO—The defense ministers of Japan and the United States may agree in a meeting next week to set up a joint working group of defense experts for developing a U.S.-proposed air defense system, a senior Defense Agency official said Friday. Japan's Defense Agency Director General Keisuke Nakanishi flew to the United States on Friday for talks with U.S. Secretary of Defense Les Aspin.

Following a stopover in Hawaii, Nakanishi will meet Aspin in Washington on Monday, officials said. High on the agenda for the defense ministers meeting will be the U.S.-proposed theater missile defense (TMD) program, an advanced version of the Patriot missiles used in the 1991 Persian Gulf war, that would destroy incoming missiles while they are flying through or above the atmosphere.

On Thursday, U.S. Undersecretary of Defense John Deutch proposed to Japanese Vice Minister of Defense Shigeru Hatakeyama in Tokyo the creation of the working group for jointly developing the TMD program. The Defense Agency official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said there is a possibility that Nakanishi and Aspin could reach an agreement when they have talks on the matter in Washington. The official pointed out that Japan must commit itself to a missile defense in order to tackle the possible proliferation of missiles and related technology.

Nakanishi and Aspin are also expected to discuss military situations in Northeast Asia, especially North Korea, U.N. peacekeeping operations and U.S. military bases in Japan. Nakanishi will return to Tokyo on Tuesday.

Hosokawa Indicates Support for Rice Imports

OW2409141993 Tokyo KYODO in English 1412 GMT
24 Sep 93

[Text] Tokyo, Sept. 24 KYODO—Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa indicated Friday that his government may consider importing rice as an emergency measure because of a poor 1993 rice harvest caused by an unusual cool and wet summer. Hosokawa told reporters, "we're not yet thinking of importing rice," but "the Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Ministry is studying (measures) to deal with the situation."

A government source, meanwhile, said there was a possibility that rice would be imported if this year's rice harvest indicator, to be announced later this month, shows a sharp decline. Another government official said Japan will likely import rice to secure a stable supply.

The Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries said last month that the country's rice crop this year is expected to be the worst in 40 years. A private research

institute forecast that Japan will have to import one million tons of rice to cover the rice shortage.

Eijiro Hata, minister of agriculture, forestry and fisheries, said Tuesday, however, that there is no need to import rice for the time being in spite of the poor harvest.

Meanwhile, Chief Cabinet Secretary Masayoshi Takemura told a news conference that cabinet ministers will discuss the issue at a meeting Thursday, the same day the ministry will issue its September rice crop index. The top government spokesman said discussions at the meeting will center on the outcome of the report and possible legislative and budgetary measures to be taken. The harvest index is likely to drop to around 85 against an average harvest of 100, a sharp decline from 95 reported in August, government sources said. The August figure matched the post-World War II record low set in 1953.

Takemura said the planned meeting will be held because the government is worried about the impact on the nation's rice harvest after a cool summer and a series of typhoons. The chief cabinet secretary declined to comment on whether the government will import rice to overcome a shortage from the expected poor harvest this fall. Takemura said he foresees no negative developments on the national rice supply-demand situation in the immediate future.

The government strictly controls the supply of rice and virtually bans rice imports. The last time Japan imported large amounts of rice was in 1984, when 150,000 tons was imported from South Korea on an emergency basis after a four-year period of poor harvests.

Japan has been under intense pressure from abroad to open up its rice market at the ongoing Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations.

Hints at Opening Rice Market

OW2409160493 Tokyo KYODO in English 1515 GMT
24 Sep 93

[Text] Tokyo, Sept. 24 KYODO—Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa hinted on Friday that Japan is ready to open its rice market in tandem with progress of the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations. The prime minister told a joint interview with 10 U.S. news organizations that prior to the December 15 deadline for wrapping up the overall package of the stalled world trade talks he wants to make a decision on the issue, a Foreign Ministry official said in a briefing.

In the interview held at the premier's official residence a day before he flies to New York to participate in the United Nations General Assembly, the 55-year-old Hosokawa said the country faces both strong calls for the opening of its rice market and growing demands for self-sufficiency in rice.

Hosokawa did not elaborate further on what decision he will reach to help bring to a successful conclusion the

global trade negotiations being held under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), the official said.

Japan opposes the tariffication formula proposed in December 1991 by then GATT Director General Arthur Dunkel, which calls for all nontariff restrictions on agricultural imports, including Japan's ban on rice imports, to be converted to customs duties, without exception.

Hosokawa, who heads a new seven-party coalition government, also said Japan will do its utmost to slash its mammoth trade surplus with the United States through further spurring domestic demand and improving market access. He also made clear Tokyo opposes setting numerical targets for reducing its trade surplus with Washington, the official said.

Although such targets can be set to some extent in tackling microeconomic matters, it is impossible to set them when dealing with macroeconomic issues, Hosokawa was quoted as saying.

Queried about Japan's desire to participate in the U.N. Security Council as a permanent member, the premier said Japan will take a "natural" posture—neither being active nor passive—on the matter.

Hosokawa told the American journalists Japan will stay in close touch with the U.S. and South Korea to urge North Korea to dispel suspicions it is developing nuclear weapons. North Korea's suspected nuclear development is a source of anxiety to Japan, Hosokawa was quoted as saying.

The Japanese leader said it is his mission to achieve political, economic and administrative reforms through breaking down the scandal-breeding triangle of politics, bureaucracy and big business. He also said his recent expressions of remorse and apology for Japan's past military actions was a reflection of his candid views on the issue.

The premier said he believes such expressions are necessary if Japan wants to further promote mutual trust with other Asian countries, as well as nations outside Asia.

But he nixed demands for compensation by the Japanese Government to foreign victims of the Japanese Imperial Army, saying the legal aspects of the issue have already been settled, the official said.

The premier is visiting New York for four days until Tuesday to meet with U.S. President Bill Clinton and attend the opening of the annual U.N. General Assembly session.

The 10 U.S. news media that interviewed Hosokawa are THE NEW YORK TIMES, THE WASHINGTON POST, THE WALL STREET JOURNAL, LOS ANGELES TIMES, CHICAGO TRIBUNE, TIME,

NEWSWEEK, BUSINESSWEEK, U.S. NEWS & WORLD REPORT and CABLE NEWS NETWORK.

Officials Say Emergency Rice Imports Likely

OW2409131993 Tokyo KYODO in English 1237 GMT 24 Sep 93

[Text] Tokyo, Sept. 24 KYODO—The government will probably take the emergency step of importing rice in order to secure stable supply amid expectations of a very bad harvest this year, government officials said Friday.

Economic ministers concerned are likely to formalize the policy when they get together next Thursday, the day when the September crop index for rice is disclosed, the officials said. Japan's rice import would be the first since it purchased from South Korea in 1984. The amount of imports is expected to total several hundred thousand tons, mainly rice for processing use such as for rice crackers, the officials said. Japan effectively bans rice imports in order to maintain self-sufficiency in the staple food.

The policy shift is expected to affect the very foundation of Japan's food control system and production adjustment system for rice. It is also likely to have an impact on the fate of the ongoing Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations where Tokyo is adamantly against a tariffication proposal for converting all nontariff trade barriers—including Japan's on rice—into tariffs to prepare for eventual complete elimination.

The September crop index is expected to decline to around 80 from 95 in August. An index of 100 represents an average year's crop, the officials said.

Annual demand for rice in Japan as staple food is about 10 million tons. The Food Agency estimates that a crop index of 80 translates into an annual crop of some eight million tons. Under the current situation, supply will fall one million tons short even taking into account some 300,000 tons stockpiled by the government, the agency says.

This year's shortfall could be covered by advanced consumption of "1994 rice," or rice produced between November 1993 and October 1994. But rice supply, even including the amount distributed through unregulated channels, is most likely to run out around August next year. Under the emergency step, Japan is expected to purchase rice for consumption as staple food from the United States and Australia and for processing use from Thailand, the officials said.

At an afternoon press conference, Chief Cabinet Secretary Masayoshi Takemura said the government will not disclose the specific steps taken to cope with the situation.

Government To Import Thai Rice

*OW2709085193 Tokyo KYODO in English 0835 GMT
27 Sep 93*

[Text] Tokyo, Sept. 27 KYODO—The government will import about 150,000 tons of rice as an initial emergency measure to deal with an expected poor rice harvest this year, a major Japanese daily reported in its evening edition Monday. The ASAHI SHIMBUN said the decision to import glutinous rice and rice for processing, mostly from Thailand, was made by the Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Ministry.

Farm minister Eijiro Hata will disclose the plan on Thursday, when he is scheduled to announce Japan's 1993 rice harvest index as of September 15, the newspaper said. It said the ministry may also import rice from the United States and other countries if there are no problems with transportation. Japan effectively bans all rice imports to maintain self-sufficiency of the staple food.

Rice Production Cutbacks Eased To Lower Imports

*OW2509095293 Tokyo KYODO in English 0942 GMT
25 Sep 93*

[Text] Tokyo, Sept. 25 KYODO—Faced with one of the worst postwar rice harvest this year, the Farm Ministry has decided to ease rice production cutbacks beginning next year, government sources reported Saturday. A formal decision is expected Thursday when the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries will announce the latest rice harvest index for this year, the sources said. The decision will be made earlier than usual in response to strong requests from farmers who plan a switchover to products other than rice.

The ministry normally announces a decision in late November on the nation's rice production adjustment program for the following year. The sources said 35,000 hectares of rice paddies already converted in excess of the government-targeted acreage reduction totaling 676,000 hectares will be restored for rice production next year. They said the Farm Ministry is reconsidering the current scale of acreage reduction to restore rice in stock to the optimum level and minimize rice imports to make up for a possible supply shortage.

Apple Imports Trade Dispute Settled With U.S.

*OW2509045193 Tokyo KYODO in English 0434 GMT
25 Sep 93*

[Text] Tokyo, Sept. 25 KYODO—Japan's Farm Ministry said Saturday an apple trade dispute with the United States has been settled with the U.S. administration conceding to accept Japanese quarantine of its products for inspection of pests.

U.S. Trade Representative Mickey Kantor earlier announced in Washington that Japan agreed to "move

expeditiously" to take action to permit entry of U.S.-made apples into the Japanese market. Denying Japan's unilateral concession, Eiichi Sato, councilor at the Agricultural Production Bureau, said if a list of technical issues are resolved, the Japanese Government will start work to lift the import ban on U.S. apples from the states of Washington and Oregon. The farm official said on-the-spot quarantine will be carried out by Japanese inspectors.

Farm Ministry officials said a Japanese quarantine team will be sent to Washington State on Friday [24 September] to carry out on-site sanitation tests against fire blight on apples destined for Japan. The officials said the ministry plans to complete procedures for liberalizing imports of U.S. apples by October 1994, the deadline for exports of the 1994 harvest. It will take about three to four months for the government to complete such procedures, the officials said. A delay in meeting the deadline is likely to rekindle the dispute between the two countries, they said.

The officials said the sterilization method to be applied to U.S. apples will be the same to be conducted on apples on imports from New Zealand, which were liberalized in June this year. The U.S. hopes to start apple shipments to Japan in January 1995, the officials said.

Kantor Cited on 'Breakthrough'

*OW2509033393 Tokyo KYODO in English 0313 GMT
25 Sep 93*

[Text] Washington, Sept. 24 KYODO—The United States Friday announced a breakthrough on apple trade with Japan, saying the Japanese Government has promised to remove technical hurdles that have barred U.S. apples from the Japanese market for two decades.

"We are pleased at this significant step forward in this long-standing issue," U.S. trade representative Mickey Kantor said in a statement. The Japanese Government has agreed "to move expeditiously" to carry out inspection measures needed to allow the entry of U.S. apples starting with the 1994 crop, he said. Kantor said the Japanese commitment came in a letter from Vice Agriculture Minister Jiro Shiwa to U.S. Agriculture Undersecretary Eugene Moos. Japan opened up its apple market in 1971 but has banned the import of U.S. apples on grounds that U.S. apple growers do not meet Japanese sanitary requirements. Specifically, Japanese agriculture officials say they are concerned about the spread of pests such as the codling moth and fire bright from U.S. apple farms to Japan. U.S. apple growers, however, have insisted they have taken the proper precautions, such as setting aside sanitized apple farms for exports bound for Japan.

Kantor said the two countries have agreed on a full list of technical issues that remain to be resolved to permit the entry of U.S. apples to Japan.

"We are confident of meeting all the Japanese technical requirements," said Jim Thomas, spokesman for the Washington Apple Commission, which represents 3,500 apple farmers in the state of Washington. The state of Washington is the largest apple-growing region in the United States and accounts for 90 percent of the nation's apple exports. The issue of sanitary requirements for the export of U.S. apples to Japan turned into a full-blown trade dispute after president Bill Clinton's administration stepped up the attack on Japan's trade barriers.

Kantor called the Japanese commitment to resolve the remaining sanitary issues a big step forward but warned that the U.S. will "monitor progress carefully to ensure that our apples do reach the Japanese market as promised."

The U.S. Government estimates U.S. apple exports to Japan could reach 15 to 20 million dollars in the first year with annual sales rising to 75 million dollars or more over the next four to five years. Washington Apple Commission officials said U.S. growers in the state have set aside 3,500 acres for apples bound for the Japanese market, with a normal harvest yielding about 14,000 tons of apple.

Kantor said the understanding on sanitary arrangements with Japan covers "golden" and "red delicious" apples produced in the states of Washington and Oregon. The 1994 crop year apples will be harvested in the United States in late summer and fall of 1994 and should begin entering Japan in early 1995, U.S. trade officials said.

IMF Panel Meets in U.S., Finance Minister Attends

Fujii on Trade Surplus

OW2509231293 Tokyo KYODO in English 2303 GMT 25 Sep 93

[Text] Washington, Sept. 25 KYODO—Japanese Finance Minister Hirohisa Fujii acknowledged that Japan's trade surplus is putting a drag on the world economy while explaining the nation's efforts to reduce its surplus.

"I told (U.S.) Treasury Secretary (Lloyd) Bentsen that it's bad for one country alone to get profits on the world economy in the long perspective," Fujii said, speaking to reporters in front of the U.S. Treasury Department. Fujii and Bentsen met Saturday morning before finance ministers and central bankers of the Group of Seven (G-7) economic powers gather in the afternoon.

His comments apparently were prompted by Bentsen's remarks Thursday indicating a shift in the U.S. policy of tolerating the yen's rise against the dollar to address Japan's trade surplus. Bentsen said the U.S. is "comfortable" with the current yen-dollar rate. The two financial heads discussed the foreign exchange rate issue, but Fujii declined to comment in detail.

Bentsen listened to Fujii's explanation of Tokyo's latest fiscal and monetary measures to stimulate the Japanese economy, and did not press for an income tax cut and other additional measures, Fujii said.

Briefing reporters later, a senior Finance Ministry official said the U.S. side welcomed Japan's efforts as Fujii also explained the cabinet of Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa intends to include income tax as part of thorough reform of the tax system. Instead, Bentsen called for cooperation between the two nations, he said. The issues of assistance to Russia and Palestine were also discussed but not deeply, the official said.

Exchange Rate 'Not Desirable'

OW2509033993 Tokyo KYODO in English 0323 GMT 25 Sep 93

[Text] Washington, Sept. 24 KYODO—A ranking Japanese finance official, accompanying Finance Minister Hirohisa Fujii, indicated Friday that Japan is not satisfied with the present yen-dollar exchange level in the world's currency markets. The finance minister is attending a weekend meeting of top financial officials from the Group of Seven (G-7) economic powers and a series of joint meetings of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank.

The official, who asked not to be named, made his remarks after U.S. Treasury Secretary Lloyd Bentsen told reporters that the U.S. is "comfortable with the dollar's position."

The Japanese currency has soared against the dollar to just above the 100 yen level, about 20 yen higher than this spring, triggered by a spate of comments by U.S. government officials, favoring the strong yen to reduce Japan's whopping trade surplus.

"Volatile foreign exchange markets, noted in a statement released after the G-7 meeting this spring, are not desirable," the official told a group of reporters. The Japanese finance official went on to say, "Japan might have to lodge a complaint (against the U.S. stance on foreign exchange issues) during the upcoming G-7 discussions."

Japan wants to put an end to market speculation that the U.S. administration hopes to cut into its huge trade deficit with Japan by declaring the G-7 policy coordination against unstable foreign exchange markets in the communique usually announced after the G-7 meeting.

Bentsen said the G-7 agreed not to issue a formal communique after the Saturday gathering at Blair House to spend more time on "substantial discussions."

The official, touching on other topics, said a rescheduling of Russia's official external debt will be one of the main topics at the meeting of G-7 finance ministers and central bankers.

Russian Finance Minister Boris Fyodorov has been invited to meet with the G-7 officials, according to the U.S. treasury secretary.

Fujii on Currency Stabilization

*OW2709001593 Tokyo KYODO in English 2345 GMT
26 Sep 93*

[Text] Washington, Sept. 26 KYODO—Japanese Finance Minister Hirohisa Fujii called Sunday for “close cooperation” to achieve a stable foreign exchange market, while expressing concern of the yen’s rise undermining efforts to boost domestic demand and reduce Japan’s trade surplus.

“Japan very much hopes that the leading countries will cooperate in implementing sound macroeconomic policies and that our close cooperation in exchange markets will ensure greater currency stability reflecting economic fundamentals,” Fujii said. The remarks were contained in a prepared speech he made at a semiannual meeting of the policy-making interim committee of the International Monetary Fund.

A senior Finance Ministry official said “greater” stability does not imply Fujii is dissatisfied with the current dollar-yen level.

In the speech, Fujii said Japan’s recent “policy initiatives will facilitate the achievement of sustained growth led by domestic demand, which in turn will have a favorable impact on reducing the current account surplus and contribute to the global economic recovery.”

However, noting the yen has risen by about 20 percent against the dollar since early this year, Fujii said, “considerable concern has been expressed that this rapid appreciation might put a damper on Japanese efforts to achieve sustained economic growth.”

But the ministry official brushed aside any implication that the economy could worsen because of the yen’s rise despite recent fiscal and economic measures.

IMF Panel Urges More Stimulus

*OW2709015793 Tokyo KYODO in English 0137 GMT
27 Sep 93*

[Text] Washington, Sept. 26 KYODO—The policy-making panel of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) urged Japan to make further efforts to boost domestic demand on Sunday, while welcoming its latest fiscal and monetary measures. In a communique issued after its twice-yearly meeting in Washington, the interim committee pointed to “market-opening and deregulation policies” as actions Japan could take for “long-term growth” to further comply with “the cooperative growth strategy” it adopted in April.

Meanwhile, the panel welcomed “measures taken in Japan to strengthen the recovery of domestic demand” as one of the developments stemming from the April

agreement. But Japan was not singled out in the communique issued at the end of the meeting, which voiced “concern about the continued weak growth performance in industrial countries and the high and rising rates of unemployment and persistent protectionist pressures.”

The panel also welcomed low inflation rates in many leading nations, lower interest rates in Europe, and a commitment to medium-term budget consolidation in north America and in some European countries. But it called on the United States and Europe to place more stress on labor market flexibility, and reforms in social security and health care.

Japanese Finance Minister Hirohisa Fujii told a press conference after the meeting that he believes the committee wants Japan to steadily implement its stimulus measures instead of taking additional steps.

Shortly before the spate of international meetings in Washington, the Japanese Government launched a fresh 6.2 trillion yen package of measures, including increased spending to boost imports and easing of regulations. This was soon followed by a 0.75 percentage point cut in the official discount rate by the bank of Japan to an all-time low 1.75 percent. The latest fiscal and monetary measures will help boost domestic demand, and the Japanese economy is expected to improve “toward next year,” Fujii said.

The communique said, “the recovery remains moderate in north America and has yet to emerge in Japan and in continental Europe.”

It did not mention tax reforms despite a demand by U.S. treasury secretary Lloyd Bentsen in his speech at the meeting. The policy-making panel called for completion of the Uruguay round of multilateral trade talks by the year-end, considering it “crucial to the success of the cooperative strategy and to restoring confidence in global economic prospects” especially in the job-creating effects of liberalizing trade. It warns that failure could reinforce “protectionist pressures, erode business confidence and weaken growth in all countries.”

Developing nations were given high marks for their steady growth, but the panel expressed “particular concern...about the plight of many of the poorest developing countries, especially in africa.”

In this sense, the panel called on the IMF Executive Board for continuation of the Enhanced Structural Adjustment Facility (ESAF) that reaches a deadline for new lending commitments November 30. ESAF is a special loan with concessional terms for low-income IMF members.

Japan’s Fujii stressed the need to extend the facility, and vowed that Japan, already a major donor, is ready to pay more. While praising progress in most former communist nations toward economic stability and market-based systems, the panel saw still high inflation in many of the former Soviet republics. Against this backdrop, it called

for further inflation-fighting and other efforts to meet conditions for "much-needed international financial support," including the IMF's systemic transformation facility.

Meanwhile, the panel also acknowledged the importance of global trade liberalization in promoting economic growth of those nations. The policy-making committee failed to reach agreement on a new allocation of the Special Drawing Rights (SDRS) after studying a report from the executive board. It requested the board to continue its work on the issue and report again in Washington next April.

Fujii Hints at Income Tax Cut

OW2709021893 Tokyo KYODO in English 0106 GMT 27 Sep 93

[Text] Washington, Sept. 26 KYODO—Japanese Finance minister Hirohisa Fujii indicated Sunday that he is ready to implement an income tax cut under the framework of overall tax reforms.

"It should not be against the people's expectations," Fujii said at a press conference following the close of a meeting of the International Monetary Fund's policy-making interim committee.

"I would like to carry out it steadily in line with what many are thinking of," Fujii said in reference to tax reforms under consideration in Japan.

The Japanese Government is considering sweeping reforms, with an advisory panel to Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa slated to issue an interim report in November. Many business leaders and politicians are demanding an early income tax cut as a way to rev up the sluggish economy.

Fujii said the aim of the tax reform is to wipe out uncertainty out the future so that the people's confidence in the national economy will be restored.

Asked whether the Japanese people are intensifying expectations of an income tax cut, Fujii said, "I believe there won't be anything against (the people's) expectations that would worsen uncertainty (about the economy)." But Fujii declined to suggest when the income tax cut will occur, saying that he must wait for the interim report by the tax policy advisory panel.

In a speech before the IMF's Interim Committee, U.S. Treasury Secretary Lloyd Bentsen said he hopes Japan's plans for tax system reform "results in a net stimulus to the economy."

Fujii said Bentsen's remarks should be read as expressing hope for a positive impact on the economy from tax reform from a midterm viewpoint rather than in the short term, and not as a call on Japan to slash income taxes as an economic stimulus.

'Source' on Tax Reform Efforts

OW2709033093 Tokyo KYODO in English 0246 GMT 27 Sep 93

[Text] Tokyo, Sept. 27 KYODO—Tax reform efforts agreed on by Japan during its meeting with other Group of Seven (G-7) economic powers do not represent a pledge by Tokyo to implement tax cuts, a Japanese Government source said Monday. The step was incorporated in the G-7 accord as a way to reflect its desire for income tax cuts in Japan, the source said. The remarks indicate government expectations that Japan will come under increased pressure to take steps to buoy up its economy. During Saturday's meeting of G-7 finance ministers and central bank governors, they agreed Tokyo will take steps to overhaul its tax system.

Trade Talks With U.S. on Cars, Parts in Oct

OW2409183393 Tokyo KYODO in English 1541 GMT 24 Sep 93

[Text] Tokyo, Sept. 24 KYODO—Japan and the United States will hold trade talks in Tokyo for two days from October 20 to explore ways to boost Japanese purchases of U.S.-made autos and auto parts, a ranking official at the Ministry of International Trade and Industry [MITI] said Friday evening. The planned meeting is part of efforts to establish a new framework for bilateral trade. The October 20 meeting will be between directors of the ministries of the two countries, while the October 21 meeting will be at the subcabinet-level, the MITI official said. The latest bilateral talks on autos and auto parts were held in Hawaii this week.

Keidanren Urges Clear Goal on Trade Surplus Cut

OW2709040293 Tokyo KYODO in English 0329 GMT 27 Sep 93

[Text] Tokyo, Sept. 27 KYODO—Japan's most powerful business group urged the government Monday to clearly show its intention to reduce the nation's huge trade surplus, indirectly calling for setting a target, Trade Ministry officials said. Leaders of the Federation of Economic Organizations (Keidanren) made the request during a morning meeting with International Trade and Industry Minister Hiroshi Kumagai, the officials said.

Keidanren Vice Chairman Shoichiro Toyoda, who is chairman of Toyota Motor Corp., stressed the need for Japan to show its trade partners a strong will to cut its massive surplus in a clear form of having a middle- and long-term goal to strive after, they said. At the same time, Toyoda said Japan should state clearly that such a goal does not constitute a pledge, they said. Toyoda also expressed opposition to setting a target for each industrial sector, which he said is characterized as managed trade.

Kumagai replied, "sector-by-sector targets are out of the question. A target is not a magic wand. It is important to show our intention to reduce the surplus by specific measures."

Turning to the nation's economic situation, Toyoda called for a drastic income tax cut to boost domestic demand, the officials said.

Hiroshi Saito, another Keidanren vice chairman and chairman of Nippon Steel Corp., asked the government to supplement a budget for a prompt income tax reduction to be funded by a future hike in the consumption tax rate, on condition that annual government spending be cut through administrative reform, the officials said.

Kumagai made no direct answer on this matter, only saying the government will do its best to implement the recently announced pump-priming measures as soon as possible, they said.

Rio Group Leader Criticizes U.S.-EC Accord

OW2409143093 Tokyo KYODO in English 1337 GMT 24 Sep 93

[Text] Tokyo, Sept. 24 KYODO—Uruguay's visiting foreign minister on Friday expressed his opposition to bilateral farm negotiations between the United States and the European Community (EC) and called for a resolution to the agricultural trade issue through multilateral discussions under the Uruguay Round of global trade talks.

Sergio Abreu, representing the Rio group of Latin American and Caribbean countries, told reporters that the group disagrees with the Blair House agreement between Washington and the EC, which he said is a bilateral one.

"We are very worried about the bilateral approach... We are part of multilateral negotiations," Abreu said, "the Rio group is in favor of keeping the final act of the Dunkel proposal without modification."

While urging multilateralization of the U.S.-EC farm accord, Abreu said the group will not sign the Uruguay Round agreement if the two major trading partners reopen and modify it. He also said the group will not be able to give its support if the agricultural sector is avoided in the final negotiations under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT).

The foreign minister, who is also a chairman of the talks, called upon developed countries to open up their farm markets to developing countries, which he said have made their best efforts to expand their market access. Referring to the Montevideo Declaration adopted on September 17 by the 11-nation group, Abreu said the group wants to have a significant and balanced outcome from the round by December 15.

Abreu said he visited Japan to explain the position of the Rio group, which has already been conveyed to Leon

Brittan, the EC's external economic affairs commissioner, and will be conveyed to U.S. Trade Representative Mickey Kantor next week.

North Korea

Test of Nodong-I Missile Said 'Confirmed'

OW2409163793 Tokyo KYODO in English 1605 GMT 24 Sep 93

[Text] Tokyo, Sept. 24 KYODO—North Korea on Friday [24 September] formally confirmed for the first time that it had test-fired a new missile, the RADIO-PRESS monitoring agency reported.

Radio Pyongyang quoted a Foreign Ministry spokesman as saying that Japan is whipping up an anti-North Korea campaign with regard to its "normal missile drill."

Japanese Defense Agency officials said on June 11 that North Korea test-launched a new intermediate-range missile with a range of 1,000 kilometers over the Sea of Japan on May 29.

The missile, called the Nodong-I, is capable of striking Seoul and western parts of Japan.

Pyongyang's missile test came amid its threat to opt out of the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), defying demands by the International Atomic Energy Agency on special inspection of two sites suspected of developing a nuclear arsenal.

North Korea's announcement in March of its withdrawal from the pact heightened tension on the Korean peninsula. But the North suspended the decision in June after rounds of talks with the United States.

On July 3, the North Korean ambassador to China indicated that Pyongyang tested the missile, telling reporters in Beijing that if it were true, it is normal because many countries conduct various military exercises out of necessity.

South Korea's YONHAP news agency reported the same month that North Korea would be able to deploy the new intermediate missiles as early as 1995, quoting a Seoul government official.

The official quoted by YONHAP said that if Pyongyang deploys the Nodong-I missile, it could pose a grave threat to the security of the Northeast Asian region.

Further on Japanese Remarks

SK2409131993 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 1215 GMT 24 Sep 93

[“Press Statement” by DPRK Foreign Ministry spokesman issued in Pyongyang on 24 September—read by announcer]

[Text] Japan has recently launched a frantic anti-Republic campaign by kicking off a frenzied racket pertaining to our regular missile launching exercise conducted some time ago.

Japan raved that diplomatic efforts should be exerted to prevent North Korea from nuclear or missile use, there should be means of defense to cope with it, and so forth. Thus, Japan is making quite a noise about establishing a theater missile defense system between Japan and the United States.

Japan keeps stationing in its territory huge foreign forces targeted against our Republic, deploying a large number of the latest offensive weapons—including sophisticated missiles and is trying to stockpile a colossal amount of plutonium and produce nuclear weapons. It is ridiculous, indeed, for Japan to take issue with our missiles.

It is only too natural for us to increase our defense capabilities when the enemies' moves to isolate and stifle [apsal] our Republic are intensifying and Japan itself is joining forces with them, taking the lead in the anti-Republic campaign. This is entirely a matter pertaining to our sovereignty.

This notwithstanding, Japan is kicking a racket about our regular missile launching exercise, and this is not because of any threat to Japan.

Lurking behind its noisy campaign is a dangerous political scheme to block the progress of DPRK-U.S. talks and isolate and stifle us by adding a missile problem to the nuclear issue and, at the same time, to complete its nuclear armament and become a full-fledged military power on that pretext.

Never should it go unnoticed that an influential politician of Japan said forces of Japan may be dispatched to South Korea as a member of the UN forces in case of emergency in the Korean peninsula.

This provocative utterance is a revelation of Japan's ambition to reinvade our country, captivated by an anachronistic militarist illusion.

This move by Japan will bring extremely serious danger to peace and security on the Korean peninsula and in Asia as a whole. We cannot help but take a serious view of it.

If the Japanese authorities continue to reinforce the military forces in conspiracy with the United States, constantly pursuing the hostile policy toward our country instead of liquidating the past and taking the road of improving relations with us, we would have no other choice but to take a self-defensive measure corresponding to it.

Japan will be held entirely responsible for the consequences arising therefrom.

The Japanese authorities should act with discretion, instead of taking rash and thoughtless acts, and should look straight at the trend of the time.

Foreign Figures Praise Country's Socialist System

*SK2309015693 Pyongyang KCNA in English 2219
GMT 22 Sep 93*

[Text] Pyongyang, September 22 (KCNA)—Foreign public figures expressed their impressions of Korean visit on the occasion of the 45th anniversary of the founding of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

The socialist system of Korea is the best social system in the world, said Dr. Amita of the Cairo University of Egypt in his travel notes.

All children learn from kindergarten to university free of charge, he pointed out, and added:

The Korean working people live a happy life with no worries about food, clothing, housing and medical care.

Peter Kohen, member of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party-Communists of Sweden, have his impressions of Korean visit to magazine RICT PENCKT No. 14.

If those who slander Korea go round the world and see Korea, they would know that the Korean people live free from worry about food, clothing and housing, medical care and education. Noumou Diakite, secretary general of the Malian Ministry for Foreign Affairs, Malians abroad and African integration, said in his interview with a KCNA reporter that the socialism of Korea correctly reflects the desire and demand of the Korean people and the specific condition of Korea and great achievements in Korea were a fruition of the valiant Korean people's struggle under the wise leadership of the great leader his excellency President Kim Il-song and the outstanding leadership of the dear leader his excellency Kim Chong-il.

Nikolai Lyashenko, head of the delegation of war veterans of the Russian Federation, said in his interview with a radio Moscow reporter that they were moved to see Pyongyang and clean streets, decent appearance of citizens, modern beautiful buildings and features of buildings constructed according to Eastern architecture gave them strong impressions.

Foreign Party Leaders Send Greetings to Leader

*SK2309045893 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0423
GMT 23 Sep 93*

[Text] Pyongyang, September 23 (KCNA)—The great leader President Kim Il-song received messages of greetings from party leaders of different countries on the occasion of the 45th founding anniversary of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

Leader of the Labour Party of Guyana Nanda Gopaul, general secretary of the C.C. [Central Committee] of the

Communist Party of Malta Anthony Vassalo and chairman of the Hungarian Workers' Party Thurmer Gyula in their messages said that since the foundation of the DPRK the Korean people have made great successes under the wise guidance of President Kim Il-song.

They expressed solidarity with the Korean people in their struggle for a peaceful reunification of the country and wished President Kim Il-song good health and long life.

Messages of greetings came to the great leader President Kim Il-song and the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il on the occasion of the founding anniversary of the DPRK from General Secretary James Stewart and International Secretary Michael O'Riordan of the National Executive Committee of the Communist Party of Ireland, Chairman A. Moroz of the political council of the Socialist Party of Ukraine upon authorization by the presidium of the political council of the party, Chairperson Betty Frydensbjerg Carlsson of the Communist Forum of Denmark, Chairman Klaus Riis of the C.C. of the Communist Party (Marxist-Leninist) of Denmark and general secretary Tala Hafun Ala Mai of the People's Unity Party (Unionist) of Jordan.

More Messages From Abroad

*SK2409050493 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0407
GMT 24 Sep 93*

[Text] Pyongyang, September 24 (KCNA)—Congratulatory messages and letters came to the great leader President Kim Il-song from celebration meetings and seminars held in New Delhi of India, Dhaka of Bangladesh, Maputo of Mozambique, Cairo of Egypt and Kladno of Czech on the occasion of the 45th founding anniversary of the DPRK.

The participants in a celebration meeting held in India in the congratulatory message said that with the foundation of the DPRK the Korean people came to hew out their destiny independently and creatively as the masters of the state and society for the first time in history and Korea emerged in the international arena as a full-fledged independent and sovereign state.

Under the wise guidance of President Kim Il-song Korea has developed into a powerful country with a man-centred socialist system free from exploitation and oppression, a mighty independent national economy, a brilliant national culture and self-reliant defence capability, they noted.

The messages and letters wished President Kim Il-song good health and long life.

Other Leaders Send Greetings

*SK2509062193 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0430
GMT 25 Sep 93*

[Text] Pyongyang, September 25 (KCNA)—The great leader President Kim Il-song received messages of greetings and letters from the participants in meetings celebrating the 45th founding anniversary of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea held in Lahore of Pakistan, Kathmandu of Nepal, Accra of Ghana, Bamako of Mali and Lusaka of Zambia.

Messages and letters said that the Korean people defended the dignity and sovereignty of the nation and won a great victory in socialist construction under the wise leadership of President Kim Il-song in the past 45 years and expressed support and solidarity for the struggle of the Korean people for the prosperity and development of the country and national reunification.

They wished President Kim Il-song good health and long life.

Meanwhile, letters were sent by the participants in the 5th national meeting of Pakistan for supporting the independent and peaceful reunification of Korea in a meeting commemorating the 12th anniversary of the publication of President Kim Il-song's work "For the Development of Agriculture in African Countries" held in Karachi.

Message From Irish Communist Leaders

*SK2709020093 Pyongyang Korean Central
Broadcasting Network in Korean 1200 GMT 25 Sep 93*

[Text] The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song and the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il received a congratulatory message from James Stewart, general secretary of the national executive committee of the Communist Party of Ireland, and Michael O'Riordan, party secretary in charge of international affairs, on the occasion of the 45th anniversary of the DPRK founding.

The congratulatory message is as follows:

Pyongyang.

To Comrade Kim Il-song, general secretary of the Workers Party of Korea [WPK] Central Committee and DPRK president, and Comrade Kim Chong-il, member of the Presidium of the WPK Central Committee Political Bureau, secretary of the party Central Committee, and supreme commander of the Korean People's Army:

The Communist Party of Ireland sends the warmest congratulations and greetings to you, the comrades, and the WPK on the occasion of the 45th anniversary of the DPRK founding. We reconfirm our continued support and solidarity to the Korean people who are carrying out the struggle for a just cause amid the difficult environment in which the antirepublic commotion by the United States is threatening and intimidating the Korean people and becoming all the more candid.

The Irish people are also struggling to unify the country divided by the imperialists. We are gaining strength and courage from the Korean people who are vigorously launching the struggle to realize the country's peaceful reunification under the wise leadership of the Comrade President Kim Il-song and Comrade Kim Chong-il.

Hurrah for the socialist Korea! We are of the firm belief that the day will come when the socialist system such as the one in the DPRK will be established in Ireland without fail.

We send comradely greetings.

[Signed] James Stewart, general secretary of the national executive committee of the Communist Party of Ireland, and Michael O'Riordan, party secretary in charge of international affairs

[Dated] 6 September 1993, Dublin

Message From British Communist Party

SK2709035993 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 1500 GMT 26 Sep 93

[Text] The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song received a congratulatory message from Michael Hicks, general secretary of the British Communist Party, on the occasion of the 45th anniversary of the DPRK founding.

The congratulatory message is as follows:

Pyongyang.

To the DPRK president, the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song:

On the 45th anniversary of your country's national holiday, I send warm greetings to you, the founder of the DPRK. Also, through this opportunity I send congratulations to the Republic's Government and the people of your country.

Results achieved in the socialist construction by the Korean people during the past 45 years under your leadership are a great encouragement to us. I hope that there will be continued results in your work to build socialism and for the country's reunification.

I express lofty respect to you.

[Signed] Michael Hicks, general secretary of the British Communist Party

[Dated] 9 September 1993, London

Greetings From Other Leaders

SK2609091993 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0803 GMT 26 Sep 93

[Text] Pyongyang, September 26 (KCNA)—President Kim Il-song of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea received messages of greetings from President Vigdis Finnbogadottir of Iceland, King Harald V of the

Kingdom of Norway and Queen Margrethe II of the Kingdom of Denmark on the occasion of the 45th founding anniversary of the DPRK.

The great leader President Kim Il-song also received messages of greetings from Secretary-general Iqbal Ahmed Khan of the Pakistan Muslim League, National Chairman M.P. Emile Kibala [words indistinct] of the Workers' Party of Zaire, Secretary General Mohamed Dicko of the Executive Committee of the African Party for the Solidarity and Justice of Mali, General Secretary Mohamed Bel Hadj Amor of the People's Unity Party of Tunisia, General Secretary Armando Villanueva and Deputy General Secretary Carlos Roca Naceres of the National Executive Committee of the American Popular Revolutionary Alliance of Peru, General Secretary Gilberto Moreno of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Peru (Red Motherland), Chairman Angel Castro Ravarello of the National Executive Committee of the Left Revolutionary Union of Peru, Chairman Genaro Ledesma Izquieta of the People's Front of Workers, Peasants and Students of Peru, General Secretary Rigoberto Padilla Ruz of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Honduras, Chairman Gustavo Tablada Celaya of the Nicaraguan Socialist Party and Secretary General Miguel Mejia of the United Left Movement of Dominica.

They in the messages said that the DPRK brought about a great turn in revolution and construction and consolidated the socialist system centred on the popular masses under the wise leadership of President Kim Il-song over the past 45 years.

They wished President Kim Il-song good health and long life.

Kim Chong-il Receives Messages From Party Leaders

SK2409065993 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1503 GMT 23 Sep 93

[Text] Pyongyang, September 23 (KCNA)—The dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il received messages of greetings from foreign party leaders on the occasion of the 45th founding anniversary of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

Messages came from Victor Voichita, chairman of the Romanian Party for New Society; Roberto Gabriele, general secretary of the the Movement for Peace and Socialism of Italy; Dragomir Draskovic, chairman of the National Committee of the Communists League-Movement for Yugoslavia; Rashed Khan Menon, General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Bangladesh; Hasanul Huq Nu, general secretary of the Central Executive Committee of the Bangladesh National Socialist Party; Khalequzzaman Bhuiyan, Convenor of the Central Committee of the Socialist Party of Bangladesh; Emile Kibala Bey A Nsien, national chairman of the Workers' Party of Zaire and member of

parliament; and Madhav Kumar Nepal, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Nepal Communist Party (United Marxism-Leninism).

In the messages they extended warm congratulations to Comrade Kim Chong-il and expressed the belief that friendly and cooperative relations between the Workers' Party of Korea and their parties would strengthen and develop.

They wished Comrade Kim Chong-il good health and long life.

Foreign Leaders Send Greetings

*SK2509052393 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0418
GMT 25 Sep 93*

[Text] Pyongyang, September 25 (KCNA)—The dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il received messages of greetings from foreign party leaders on the occasion of the 45th founding anniversary of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

Among them are President of the Pakistan Socialist Party C.R. Aslam, Secretary-General of the Pakistan Muslim League Iqbal Ahmed Khan, Chairman of the Caribbean National Movement Hervin Chung, General Secretary of the Revolutionary Socialist Party of Peru Guzman Rivera Castaneda, General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Peru (Red Motherland) Alberto Moreno, President of the National Executive Committee of the left Revolutionary Union of Peru Angel Castro, Chairman of the People's Front of Workers, Peasants and Students of Peru Genaro Ledesma Izquieta, General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Honduras Rigoberto Padilla Ruz, chairman of the National Executive Committee of the Polish League of Communists "Proletariat" Zbigniew Wiktor, Chairman of the Executive Council of the Central Committee of the Bulgarian Communist Party (Marxists) Boris Petkov and General Secretary of the New Yugoslav Communist Movement Branko Kitanovic.

They expressed the belief that under the wise leadership of Comrade Kim Chong-il the Korean people push aside all the obstructive moves of the imperialists and reactionaries, resolutely defend and add lustre to the socialist system and surely reunify the divided country in the near future.

They wished Comrade Kim Chong-il good health and long life.

Meanwhile, Comrade Kim Chong-il received a message of greetings from the Central Committee of the Communist Party of India (Marxism).

Message From Bangladesh Party Leader

*SK2709023493 Pyongyang Korean Central
Broadcasting Network in Korean 1500 GMT 25 Sep 93*

[Text] The dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il received a congratulatory message from (Hasanol Hakinu), general secretary of the central executive committee of the Bangladesh National Socialist Party on the occasion of the 45th anniversary of the DPRK founding.

The congratulatory message is as follows:

Pyongyang.

To Your Excellency Marshal Kim Chong-il, member of the Presidium of the Workers Party of Korea [WPK] Central Committee Political Bureau, secretary of the party Central Committee, and supreme commander of the Korean People's Army:

I send sincere congratulations and greetings to you. Your Excellency, on the occasion of the DPRK founding day. The fact that the Korean people are vigorously moving toward socialism by smashing [chitbusigo] the imperialists' oppression and maneuvers is giving us great encouragement and happiness.

Your Excellency, the Korean people smashed [chitbusigo] all kinds of conspiracies committed by the imperialists under your wise leadership and are moving forward by highly upholding the red flag of the revolution by safeguarding the country's sovereign right. This is giving great encouragement to the world's people.

We are of the firm belief that the revolutionary DPRK will remain as a socialist fortress forever. We pray for Your Excellency's long life and health and also hope that you will continue to guide the country toward prosperity.

[Signed] (Hasanol Hakinu), general secretary of the central executive committee of the Bangladesh National Socialist Party

[Dated] 4 September 1993, Dhaka

Messages From Other Party Leaders

*SK2709051493 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0432
GMT 27 Sep 93*

[Text] Pyongyang, September 27 (KCNA)—The dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il received messages of greetings from foreign party leaders on the occasion of the 45th founding anniversary of the DPRK.

Messages came from A.F.M. Mahbubul Haq, Convenor of the C.C. [Central Committee], the Socialist Party of Bangladesh who is chairman of the federation of five parties of Bangladesh; Gustavo Tablada Celaya, chairman of the Nicaraguan Socialist Party; Blasco Hugo Fernandes, chairman of the National Direction Committee of the Democratic Intervention of Portugal; and Michael Hicks, General Secretary of the Britannic Communist Party.

Noting that the socialist construction is being successfully pushed ahead and the banner of socialism is being firmly defended in Korea under the wise guidance of Comrade Kim Chong-il, the messages wish him success in his work for the building of socialism and national reunification.

Turkish Delegation Delivers Gifts on Birthday

For Kim Il-song

*SK2309115993 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1034
GMT 23 Sep 93*

[Text] Pyongyang, September 23 (KCNA)—The great leader President Kim Il-song received a gift from the delegation of the Workers' Party of Turkey.

The gift was handed to Choe Tae-pok, alternate Politburo member and secretary of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, by Mehmet Bedri Gultekin, vice-chairman of the Workers' Party of Turkey, who is leading the delegation

For Kim Chong-il

*SK2309120193 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1035
GMT 23 Sep 93*

[Text] Pyongyang, September 23 (KCNA)—The dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il received a gift from the delegation of the Workers' Party of Turkey.

The gift was handed to Choe Tae-pok, alternate Politburo member and secretary of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, by Mehmet Bedri Gultekin, vice-chairman of the Workers' Party of Turkey, who is leading the delegation

Ugandan Delegation Delivers Gift for Kim Chong-il

*SK2409113893 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1038
GMT 24 Sep 93*

[Text] Pyongyang, September 24 (KCNA)—The dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il received a gift from the National Resistance Movement of Uganda.

The gift was handed to Hwang Chang-yop, secretary of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, by Jotham Tumwesigye, deputy national political commissioner of the secretariat of the National Resistance Movement of Uganda on a visit to Korea.

Kim Il-song Receives Chinese Cultural Delegation

*SK2609002993 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1516
GMT 25 Sep 93*

[Text] Pyongyang, September 25 (KCNA)—The great leader President Kim Il-song today received the visiting government cultural delegation of China led by Minister of Culture Liu Zhongde.

Present there were Vice-Premier and Minister of Culture and Art Chang-chol and Chinese Ambassador to Korea Qiao Tonghuai [name as received].

President Kim Il-song conversed with the guests in a cordial and friendly atmosphere.

Gift Presented to Kim Il-song

*SK2609003493 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1517
GMT 25 Sep 93*

[Text] Pyongyang, September 25 (KCNA)—The great leader President Kim Il-song received a gift from the government cultural delegation of China staying here.

The gift was handed by Minister of Culture Liu Zhongde who is leading the delegation to Vice-Premier and Minister of Culture and Art Chang Chol.

Kim Chong-il Receives Gift

*SK2609003993 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1518
GMT 25 Sep 93*

[Text] Pyongyang, September 25 (KCNA)—The dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il received a gift from the government cultural delegation of China staying here.

The gift was handed by Minister of Culture Liu Zhongde who is leading the delegation to Vice-Premier and Minister of Culture and Art Chang Chol.

President Kim Il-song Greets Yemen Leader

*SK2509120593 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1027
GMT 25 Sep 93*

[Text] Pyongyang, September 25 (KCNA)—President Kim Il-song of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea today sent a message of greetings to 'Ali 'Abudullah Salih, president of the Presidential Council of the Republic of Yemen, on the occasion of the anniversary of revolution in Yemen.

Expressing the belief that the friendly and cooperative relations between the two countries will continue to develop favourably, the message wishes the president and people of Yemen success in their work for consolidating the unification and stability of the country and building a prosperous new Yemen.

Kim Il-song Receives Reply From SRV Leaders

*SK2209034093 Pyongyang Korean Central
Broadcasting Network in Korean 1300 GMT 20 Sep 93*

[Text] The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Workers Party of Korea [WPK] and DPRK president, has received a reply to the congratulatory message he sent to Do Muoi, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Vietnamese Communist Party [VCP], and Le Duc Anh, president of the SRV, on the occasion of the 48th anniversary of the founding of the SRV.

The reply is as follows:

Pyongyang

To Comrade Kim Il-song, general secretary of the WPK Central Committee and DPRK president:

We extend deep gratitude to you for sending us a heartfelt message of congratulation on the occasion of the 48th anniversary of the founding of the SRV.

We wish you a long life and good health.

I hope that the friendly and cooperative relations between the two parties, the two countries, and the two people will continue to develop and strengthen in the future.

[Signed] Du Muoi, general secretary of the VCP Central Committee; and Le Duc Anh, president of the SRV.

[Dated] 15 September 1993, Hanoi

Kim Il-song Sends Message to Guinean President

SK2309114693 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1026 GMT 23 Sep 93

[Text] Pyongyang, September 23 (KCNA)—President Kim Il-song of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea sent a message of greetings on September 22 to Joao Bernardo Vieira, president of the state council of the republic of Guinea-Bissau, on the occasion of the 20th anniversary of the proclamation of the republic.

In the message President Kim Il-song said the Guinea-Bissau people now are actively striving to promote the national unity and attain prosperity of the country.

He expressed the belief that the friendly relations between the two countries would continue to develop on good terms, and wished the president and people of Guinea-Bissau great success in their work.

South Korea

Minister on Western Stance on Nuclear Issue

SK2509093693 Seoul YONHAP in English 0916 GMT 25 Sep 93

[Text] Tokyo, Sept. 25 (YONHAP)—Western countries are calling for a more stern stance than before on North Korea's nuclear situation and the coming two to three weeks will be a crucial, decisive period, South Korean Foreign Minister Han Sung-chu said Saturday.

"Hardliners are gaining voice within the United States, and the voice is rising to a point of concern," Han told South Korean correspondents here, adding he was worried it may lead to a confrontation.

If the North Korean nuclear issue is taken up at the U.N. Security Council sometime late October, "a worrisome

situation may emerge," he said, predicting that even China is unlikely to abstain this time.

But South Korea and the United States still believe they should try to persuade North Korea once more, and it would be better for the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) General Assembly to not include strong threats of demands such as urging the Security Council to impose sanctions, he said.

Han stopped by Tokyo on his way to the U.N. General Assembly.

Seoul had thought Pyongyang would come out softer in order to hold next round of high-level talks with Washington. But it turned more hardline, threatening to go ahead and withdraw from the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty (NPT).

The Stalinist state, after two rounds of high-level talks with the United States, said it is temporarily suspending its NPT withdrawal.

Some European countries are questioning if they must keep North Korea in the NPT regime at this point, saying instead that they should take commensurate action if Pyongyang does pull out of the treaty.

Even a bigger threat than North Korea's nuclear program is its development of biological and chemical weapons, Han warned.

Pyongyang does not appear to have completed nuclear arms but it has biological and chemical weapons and the capability to load it on missiles, he said.

Japan, as threatened as South Korea, is able to defend against missiles but Seoul cannot, said Han.

South Korea should not be left out of Japan-U.S. discussions over North Korea's missile threats, and it is better to launch a tripartite cooperation channel, he said.

IAEA Position on DPRK Nuclear Issue Analyzed

SK2509112393 Seoul KYONGHYANG SINMUN in Korean 25 Sep 93 p 3

[Article by Vienna-based correspondent Ko Sung-chol: "Prospects of North Korean Nuclear Issue Turned Over to IAEA General Assembly"]

[Text] The regular meeting of the International Atomic Energy Agency's [IAEA] Board of Governors was held from 21 to 23 September. With it, the North Korean nuclear issue faced a new prospect. The Board of Governors meeting decided to forward the North Korean nuclear issue to an IAEA general meeting scheduled to begin on 27 September.

Even if another resolution is adopted at the IAEA general meeting over the following weekend, it is not likely that this resolution would greatly differ from the one urging North Korea to accept inspections and exerting serious pressure on North Korea.

The change in position of the IAEA and its major member states, revealed during the recent regular Board of Governors meeting, suggests the direction the IAEA will take in the future to solve the North Korean nuclear issue.

The report made by IAEA Director General Hans Blix during the recent Board of Governors meeting does not contain the words "special inspection." This means that the position of the IAEA, which has been demanding an inspection of two unregistered facilities in Yongbyon, has been relaxed to some extent. Last February, the IAEA pointed out that serious discrepancies were discovered between the content of what North Korea had registered and the results of the IAEA's inspections. Accordingly, the IAEA resolved to conduct a special inspection of unregistered facilities in order to probe this.

North Korea contacted relevant IAEA officials in Pyongyang from 1 to 3 September in an attempt to express its readiness to resume negotiations with the IAEA. However, North Korea did not reveal its willingness to accept the inspection.

The IAEA's inspection team conducted a total of six ad hoc [imsi] inspections since the Nuclear Safeguards Accord was effectuated between April of last year and this February. Following this, the IAEA was allowed to conduct only checking activities, including the replacing and sealing of films and batteries for the surveillance camera, last May and August.

In a message sent to the IAEA during its Board of Governors meeting, North Korea stated that "it will accept future inspection activities only to the extent of checking of the equipment."

In particular, the demand for special inspection of North Korea was omitted during the recent Board of Governors meeting and the level of the IAEA's demand was noticeably relaxed to the extent that the IAEA would accept even ad hoc inspections.

However, one cannot view this as an entirely advantageous development for North Korea. North Korea is again revealing a possibility of withdrawing from the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty [NPT]. But during the recent Board of Governors meeting, some members stressed that "there is no need to forcibly bind North Korea with the NPT." They contended that if North Korea withdraws from the NPT, some other steps must be worked out to cope with this."

However, the United States believes that keeping North Korea within the NPT system is more advantageous for maintaining the U.S.-led NPT system. Some U.S. Government officials hold that it is better for the United States to conduct nuclear inspections at a level that can prevent North Korea from pushing for further nuclear development, instead of taking North Korea to task over how much plutonium North Korea has produced so far.

As a result of these developments, the people's attention is focused on future North Korea-IAEA negotiations, North Korea-U.S. high-level talks, and North-South dialogue. Concerning the strained situation in which North Korea is desperately striving to maintain its political system, some diplomatic experts pointed out that it is more desirable to induce North Korea's opening by recognizing its "nuclear card" to some extent.

North's Biochemical Warfare Capability Estimated

SK2709120693 Seoul KBS-1 Radio Network in Korean 1020 GMT 27 Sep 93

[Text] North Korea is estimated to have some 1,000 tons of toxic gas, including blister and nerve types. North Korea also produced agents that cause infectious diseases such as cholera and the plague for the production of bacteriological weapons, and has completed somatological tests. It is, thus, estimated that the North Korean ability to wage biochemical warfare ranks third in the world, the National Unification Board said.

President Interviewed on North, Japan Relations

SK2509054093 Seoul YONHAP in English 0524 GMT 25 Sep 93

[Text] Tokyo, Sept. 25 (YONHAP)—South Korean President Kim Yong-sam has not ruled out the possibility of Seoul seeking international sanctions against Pyongyang should North Korea fail to solve its nuclear problem this year.

Kim said, in an interview with the Japanese newspaper MAINICHI SHIMBUN published Saturday, that it is in North Korea's own best interest to solve its nuclear problem before the end of the year.

"Given the difficult economic conditions of North Korea, dragging out the question further won't serve their interests either," the mass-circulation daily quoted Kim as saying. It said the president made the remarks in a recent interview with Tadao Koike, president of the paper, at his office in Chongwadae [presidential offices].

He observed to Koike that "if efforts to check Pyongyang's nuclear arms development fail to work, there will be no choice but to invoke international sanctions in one form or another (against North Korea)," according to the MAINICHI.

"If North Korea resolves the nuclear issue and it agrees to implement inter-Korean agreements, then we in the South can even reconsider the plan to stage the (joint South Korea-U.S.) Team Spirit military exercise next year let alone promoting mutual cooperation," the president was quoted as saying.

Stating that South Korea does not want to absorb North Korea in achieving unification the way that East and West Germany did, Kim said that all his government

seeks is for the two Koreas to proceed down the road toward peaceful unification in stability.

Turning to Korea-Japan relations, President Kim was quoted as saying that he believed Japan has lately improved its perception of things of the past.

He noted that the Tokyo government has recognized and apologized for the force used by Japan in mobilizing Koreans to serve as "comfort women" during World War II.

Kim said that Japanese Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa had reflected on Japan's war efforts during World War II, and that he had conceded that they were aggressive acts.

"I hope that Japan itself will make positive efforts to resolve problems of the past," he was quoted as saying.

Kim also said he believes Japanese participation in United Nations' peace keeping operations (PKO) is part of its efforts to contribute to the prosperity and stability of the international society, the MAINICHI said.

It said that he was quick to add, however, that Japan should know there are some countries in its vicinity that, with unfortunate relations with Japan in the past, were watching Japan's overseas military activities with a worrisome eye.

He hoped in this context that Japan would contribute to the world community in the non-military area with an emphasis on economy, it said.

Asked by Koike what he thought of Japan's bid to secure a permanent seat on the U.N. Security Council, President Kim reminded him that South Korea had already sent a position paper to the United Nations on the issue of reorganizing the Security Council.

South Korea's idea, he said, was that the present permanent membership should be retained while those countries able to contribute much to world peace and stability additionally work at the Security Council.

On economic relations between the two countries, Kim said that if and when the two countries further developed their cooperative relations in the technology, trade and other economic areas, it would do much good not only to the prosperity of the two countries themselves but also to the economic development of the Asia-Pacific area and the world economy.

Noting that South Korea is now improving its investment environment resolutely to resolve bilateral economic issues based on economic logic, the MAINICHI said, Kim expressed the hope that Japan would reciprocate it and try to promote close economic cooperative ties with South Korea.

Discussing domestic issues, Kim said that his institution of the real-name financial transactions system was a

"revolutionary step that demolishes the negative inertia and practices that had beset the Korean society for long," the paper reported.

Kim said that he knows there are some complaints that the "president runs alone."

"They either stem from misunderstanding on the part of those who fail to comprehend properly my reform policy or come from discontented people," he was quoted as saying.

It is rather natural there pop up some pains and inconveniences in the process of reforms, the president said.

President on Willingness To Lend Aid to North

SK2509024193 Seoul CHOSON ILBO in Korean
25 Sep 93 p 2

[Report by Pu Chi-yong from Tokyo]

[Text] In an exclusive interview with Japan's MAINICHI SHIMBUN, which was reported in the 25 September morning edition of this paper, President Kim Yong-sam said: "North Korea is in a difficult situation economically. If the nuclear issue is resolved, I am thinking of assisting North Korea." He also warned: "If there are no results in the efforts to check the nuclear development, international sanctions will be unavoidable." In connection with North Korea's nuclear issue, President Kim also said: "The development of North Korea's nuclear weapons has not been completed yet, but it possesses materials that can produce one to three nuclear bombs." President Kim also said: "I hope that the nuclear issue can be resolved within this year and that significant South-North dialogue can be realized sometime this year or next." He also expressed the position that if North Korea shows sincerity in resolving the nuclear issue, he will deal flexibly with the ROK-U.S. joint military exercise—the Team Spirit exercise. This interview was held on 23 September at Chongwadae [presidential office] by (Kokei), MAINICHI SHIMBUN president, who is visiting the ROK at the invitation of CHOSON ILBO.

North Said Stepping Up Military Activities

SK2709104093 Seoul YONHAP in English 1025 GMT
27 Sep 93

[Text] Tokyo, Sept. 27 (YONHAP)—North Korea has recently intensified military activities, building up arms in areas along the truce line that divides the two Koreas, the NHK-TV here reported on Monday.

In its mid-day news, the NHK-TV said an official who was accompanying Japan's Defense Agency Minister Keisuke Nakanishi to his current visit to Washington, disclosed this, expressing a serious concern about heightening military tension on the Korean peninsula.

The report said that North Korea has deployed more multi-barrel rockets and large field guns with a range of more than 40 km in military border areas.

Besides, they are drastically improving various military equipment.

They have replaced the armor plates of some 1,300 tanks with reinforced plates, and the training flights of fighter planes, which had in the past been on a decline due to fuel shortage, numbered 4,800 times in the first seven months of this year, up three times over the same period of last year.

The official was quoted as saying that the stepped-up military activities began to appear soon after North Korea announced the plan to withdraw from the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty (NPT) last March.

The intensified military activities were made known through analyses of intelligence reports obtained through the offices of the Japan Defense Agency and U.S. Pentagon, the NHK added.

PRC Vice Premier Li Lanqing Arrives in Seoul

SK2709052793 Seoul YONHAP in English 0507 GMT 27 Sep 93

[Text] Seoul, Sept. 27 (YONHAP)—Chinese Vice Premier Li Lanqing arrived in Seoul on Monday afternoon at the invitation of the South Korean Government.

Li, one of four vice premiers on the Chinese State Council, is in charge of trade and economic policy. The Director of the State Council General Office, Zeng Jianhui, and the Chairman of the China Council for the Promotion of International Trade, Zheng Hongye, are included in the 15-member entourage.

Li, who attended the third general meeting of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) in Seoul in 1991, is to meet with President Kim Yong-sam and attend an official dinner hosted by Trade, Industry and Energy Minister Kim Chol-su.

He will attend the Chinese National Day Ceremony at the Taejon Expo on Tuesday and visit Cheju Island on Wednesday.

Li will meet with business leaders, including the Chairman of the Korea Chamber of Commerce and Trade, Kim Sang-ha, the Chairman of the Korea Foreign Trade Association, Pak Yong-hak, the Honorary Chairman of the Hyundai Group, Chong Chu-yong, and the Chairman of the Daewoo Group, Kim U-chung.

ROK-PRC Summit in Seattle 'Likely'

SK2709112393 Seoul KBS-1 Radio Network in Korean 1000 GMT 27 Sep 93

[Text] A summit between President Kim Yong-sam and Chinese President Jiang Zemin is likely to be held in

Seattle when the top leaders of the two countries participate in the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation [APEC] leaders' meeting scheduled for this November.

President Kim Yong-sam, during a meeting today with Li Lanqing, Chinese vice premier in charge of trade and economic policy, said that he would like to meet President Jiang Zemin when he goes to the APEC leaders' meeting in Seattle. Vice Premier Li Lanqing said that he would convey President Kim's wish to President Jiang Zemin.

In this connection, a high-ranking official of the Chongwadae, official presidential residence, said that the government understands that President Jiang Zemin's attendance at the APEC leaders' meeting is highly likely and that the government is pushing ahead with the arrangements for the summit between President Kim and President Jiang in Seattle. The Chongwadae official added that it is very likely that the ROK-PRC summit will be held.

China To Help North-South Dialogue

SK2709113693 Seoul YONHAP in English 1119 GMT 27 Sep 93

[Text] Seoul, Sept. 27 (YONHAP)—A summit meeting between President Kim Yong-sam and Chinese President Jiang Zemin may be held in Seattle in November during the projected Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) summit talks.

While meeting with visiting Chinese Vice Premier Li Lanqing at Chongwadae [presidential residence], President Kim said he would like to meet president and party General Secretary Jiang if he comes to Seattle in November.

Vice Premier Li, in response, said he would convey to Jiang President Kim's wish to meet him in Seattle, Chongwadae spokesman Yi Kyong-chae said.

A Chongwadae official said it is not sure whether President Jiang would attend the Seattle APEC summit. "But, there is much possibility that he would come to the meeting," he said.

President Kim also called for China's cooperation in resolving North Korea's nuclear issues.

Kim said that once the nuclear question were resolved, inter-Korean economic cooperation could be undertaken positively.

"We would promote unification step by step through dialogue in a way that would bring benefits to all the Korean people instead of trying to absorb North Korea," Kim was quoted as saying.

Li said China would make constructive efforts to help bring about peace and dialogue between South and North Korea.

Vice Premier Li in charge of trade and education flew into Seoul earlier in the day at the Seoul government's invitation.

Autographed Kim Il-song Pamphlets Found in Seoul

SK2509040193 Seoul TONG-A ILBO in Korean
25 Sep 93 p 29

[Text] Piles of Kim Il-song-autographed pamphlets of Kim Il-song's memoir were found in the Seoul residential areas of Sinsu-tong in Mapo-ku and Yokchon-tong in Unpyong-ku on the evening of 23 September.

It was revealed that the 235-page booklet which is 8 centimeters long and 13 centimeters wide, was printed by the Chongmun Publishing House on 25 February 1993. The book beautifies Kim Il-song's armed anti-Japanese struggle and the process in which he seized power.

S&T Minister Leaves for Austria, Israel, FRG

SK2509074393 Seoul YONHAP in English 0503 GMT
25 Sep 93

[Text] Seoul, Sept. 25 (YONHAP)—Science and Technology Minister Kim Si-chung left Seoul for Vienna on Saturday afternoon to attend the 37th General Meeting of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

Kim will propose concerted management of nuclear materials in a keynote speech to the meeting, which opens on Monday.

He will explain South Korea's position that Seoul will be willing to discuss Science and Technology cooperation with Pyongyang, including nuclear cooperation, if North Korea returns fully to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) and accepts nuclear inspection by the IAEA.

He will suggest forming a "joint council for nuclear safety in Northeast Asia" with South Korea, Japan and China as members and seeking ways to solve the North Korea's nuclear problem through contact with nuclear powers.

Before returning home, he will visit Israel to meet with his counterpart there and discuss ways for the countries to cooperate in Science and Technology. It will be the first time that a Korean minister has visited Israel.

Kim will go to Germany to meet with Korean scientists and technicians and return to Seoul on Oct. 3.

Foreign Minister Begins Schedule at United Nations

SK2709074793 Seoul YONHAP in English 0655 GMT
27 Sep 93

[Text] New York, Sept. 26 (YONHAP)—South Korean Foreign Minister Han Sung-chu begins his activities at

the United Nations on Monday, starting with morning talks with his Spanish counterpart, Javier Solana.

Apart from attending the U.N. General Assembly, Han has meetings scheduled with Chinese Foreign Minister Qian Qichen, a group luncheon with U.N. Secretary-general Boutros Boutros-Ghali and an evening reception hosted by U.S. President Bill Clinton.

He calls on General Assembly Chairman Samuel initially on Tuesday, and is to meet Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev and Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres.

Han delivers his keynote speech to the assembly on Wednesday, when he will declare South Korea's bid for a non-permanent seat on the Security Council for 1996-1997.

He has talks scheduled with over 20 counterparts and heads of state, and the key theme of these meetings is to be arranging summit dates, especially with China and the United States, and coordination on the North Korean nuclear situation.

He meets with representatives of the permanent Security Council nations to discuss future countermeasures to North Korea's unwillingness to accept outside nuclear inspections.

Meanwhile, Han attended the Korean festival, sponsored by the Asia Society, that opened Sunday. The festival is in New York until Oct. 1 and then starts a tour of Washington, D.C., Chicago, Los Angeles, Seattle, Houston and Atlanta.

Asian Leaders Discuss Tuman River Project

SK2509122793 Seoul HANGUK ILBO in Korean
25 Sep 93 p 7

[By Yi Chong-sin]

[Text] Kangwon Province is active in local development nowadays. Its leaders are the first from a ROK local self-government entity to hold discussions with Chinese officials from Jilin Province on economic cooperation for the Tuman River development.

Kangwon Provincial leaders are planning to develop a local economy by using the East Sea with the intent of making it an "Asian Mediterranean." They invited members of Jilin Province's exchange group for the Tuman River development, and held an explanatory meeting and a forum in Chunchon on 24 September. A 20-member Chinese delegation headed by Zhang Dejiang, adviser of Jilin Province's Tuman River Development Body, attended the meeting and explained details of the province's Tuman River development plan.

Professor Ding Shicheng, chief of the Science and Technology Committee of Jilin Province, read his paper on the subject at the explanatory meeting. He said "The

Tuman River's estuary area is a golden delta where Japan's capital, the ROK's experience, North Korea's labor, and Chinese and Russian resources can be utilized together" and urged the ROK's active participation in the development plan of this area. In particular, he pointed out that "when the Tuman River development plan has a concrete shape, this area will become a stopover connecting Eurasia and the East Sea, it will be used as a key point in the Northeast Asian economic circle," and he anticipated a rapid economic development of Kangwon Province, which skirts along the East Sea.

At the forum followed by the explanatory meeting, officials from the Jilin Province said: "Jilin Province is undertaking a large-scale economic development by promoting the Tuman River development and opening its various districts." They then strongly hoped ROK companies invest in Jilin Province, saying that "ROK companies have favorable environments for investing in Jilin Province because there is a Korean ethnic self-governing locality in the province.

Kangwon Province hosted this event because its leaders intend to utilize the great trend of changes in Northeast Asia as a stepping-stone for its economic development. They expect that when the Tuman River development plan—in which seven countries including South and North Korea are participating—is pushed ahead, Kangwon Province will become the nucleus of the maritime tourist route that connects Japan, Mt. Sorak, Mt. Kumgang, Mt. Paektu, and China. They also expect that in order to cope with increasing imports and exports, large indirect social facilities such as railroads, ports, and airports, will be increased in Kangwon Province and that all this will accelerate the province's development.

To prepare a concrete model for its "Asian Mediterranean" plan, Kangwon Province will soon set up sisterhood relationship with Jilin Province and is considering the opening of direct air service between Hunchun in Jilin Province and Sokcho in Kangwon Province.

Further Discussion on Plan

SK2709020193 Seoul YONHAP in English 0034 GMT
27 Sep 93

[Text] Yongpyong, Kangwon Province, Sept. 27 (YONHAP)—The fourth meeting of the Northeast Asia Economic Forum (NEAEF) opened at the scenic Yongpyong ski resort Sunday for a two-day discussion on ways to enhance regional economic cooperation and accelerate the Tumen River development project.

In the meeting, some 80 representatives from South Korea, China, Japan, Russia, Mongolia, the United States and the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) are to make proposals and exchange views on issues of developing financial institutes such as the Northeast Asian Development Bank to fund their joint projects and maximize the economic advantages of member countries.

North Korea, faithful and devoted to the organization and its projects so far, is absent from the Yongpyong conference.

NEAEF was born at an East-West Center Conference in Changchun, China, in July 1990 to develop the Tumen River basin, surrounded by North Korea, China, Russia, and the East Sea (sea of Japan), under the sponsorship of the UNDP.

The seven-nation conference met in Changchun in August 1991, in Pyongyang in May last year and in Vladivostok, Russia, three months later.

The stage has now moved to Yongpyong (Dragon Valley), which is just 50 kilometers from the east sea where a Chinese technical ship will make a feasibility survey of the Tuman River.

In his welcoming speech, Pak Song-sang, president of the Asia-Pacific Institute of Seoul, host of the meeting, regretted the absence of North Korean delegates.

NEAEF Chairman Cho Yi-chae, vice president of the East-West Center in Hawaii, elaborated on the economic dynamism generated by regional cooperation—abundant labor of China, rich minerals, gas, timber and marine resources of Russia, North Korea's potentially high quality labor and strategic coastline, South Korea's central location, capital, medium cost and industrial technology, Japan's mass capital and advanced technology, and Mongolia's geographical proximity to Europe.

Former Prime Minister Chong Won-sik, chairman of the Sejong Institute, also highlighted the advantageous features of regional development of the Tumen Economic Zone in his keynote speech.

"The Tumen River project is an ambitious attempt to pull together the best of all countries in the region. It envisages an economic zone that includes China's Jilin Province, North Korea's underdeveloped northeast region, and the eastern Siberian maritime provinces of Russia," Chong said.

"What is important is that Japanese and South Korean capital and technology would be used to jointly excavate natural resources, in addition to the manufacturing of consumer goods within the zone."

He expressed his firm belief that when the project comes to fruition, the region will have the potential to become a second Hong Kong or Rotterdam in terms of economic strength.

He recognized the political and security uncertainties and the ideological differences of the region, but noted that the outlook was far brighter from the viewpoint of economic cooperation in Northeast Asia.

"If we could capitalize on the huge potentials for economic cooperation in the region, the effect of growing

economic cooperation will likely spill over to the political and security realms," Chong said.

Other participants are Former Prime Minister Nam Tuk-u, API Chairman in Seoul, Sohn Whalen, UNDP manager of the Tumen River Area Development Program, Burnham Campbell, Professor Emeritus in the Department of Economics at the University of Hawaii, Ma Bin, professor of the Chinese State Council's Development Research Center, Hisao Kanamori, chairman of the Japan Center for Economic Research, Pavel Minakir, director of the Institute of Economic Research of the Russian Academy of Sciences, and Mongolian Ambassador Extraordinary Khumbagyn Olzvoy.

Northeast Development Bank Proposed

SK2709093793 Seoul YONHAP in English 0648 GMT
27 Sep 93

[By So Hae-song]

[Text] Yongpyong, South Korea, Sept. 27 (YONHAP)—Northeast Asian countries nurtured and elaborated on the idea of launching a regional development bank to fund their infrastructure projects on Monday, the second day of the fourth meeting of the Northeast Asia Economic Forum (NEAEF) at the Yongpyong (Dragon Valley) ski resort in Kangwon Province.

Participants agreed that there is great but largely unrealized potential for economic growth in developing Northeast Asia and that the best way to take advantage of the potential is a regional development bank as it would cover the resources gap in the region as well as contributing to monetary financial reforms, which most countries in the area need.

Scholars, businessmen, journalists and regional experts from South Korea, Japan, China, Mongolia, Russia, the United States and the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) will present papers and engage in discussions on cooperation in financing development, transportation and communications, utilization of labor and other regional development schemes, mainly the Tuman River Area Development Program (TRADP), until the conference closes Tuesday.

North Korea, an active participant in three previous meetings, in Changchun, Vladivostok and in Pyongyang last year, has offered to lease land in Najin-Songbong for the Tuman development program. It is absent from the Yongpyong meeting.

The Northeast Asia Development Bank (NEADB) was first proposed by Pak Sung-sang, president of the Asia-Pacific Institute (API) of Seoul and a former president of the Bank of Korea, last year to finance regional development projects that require a great amount of hard currency and up to 20 years of long-term financing. He suggested that the forum might be an effective unofficial way to realize the idea.

The NEADB's functions could overlap the activities of the World Bank in Washington, D.C., Asian Development Bank [ADB] and European Bank for Reconstruction and Development [EBRD], since China is covered by the ADB and Russia by the EBRD, said Burnham Campbell, a consultant at the East-West center, an international affairs research institute based in Hawaii.

He explained the need for a Northeast Asian development bank even though most countries in the region, with exceptions such as North Korea, are members of the ADB.

Campbell's reasoning was that infrastructure projects in Northeast Asia would be better planned and carried out as multinational projects than on a country by country basis, that a regionally specialized lending institution would be more sensitive to the region's requirements and political realities, and that a NEADB was likely to better understand the risks and be more efficient in materializing project financing of the sort required in the region.

Speaking on the same issue, Prof. Hiroshi Kakazu of International University of Japan suggested that the NEADB be initiated by the UNDP, sponsor of the Tuman river development program, as it includes all Northeast Asian countries as its members.

He also recommended that the NEADB start as a Northeast Asian special development fund at the ADB and that a special fund for Far Eastern Russia be set up at the EBRD so that both funds could then be combined to establish the NEADB.

He said the inclusion of non-regional members was essential in order to broaden funding sources as well as cooperation and agreed with Campbell that Taiwan could be an important source of funds.

Although China might object to Taiwan's political gain and rule out its participation, it may go along with the idea of Taiwan as a capital provider.

Kakazu recommended Seoul, Tokyo and Shanghai as candidates for the headquarters of the bank, which is expected to bolster the host's international image.

S&T Minister on Korean Atomic Energy Cooperation

SK2509032993 Seoul TONG-A ILBO in Korean
25 Sep 93 p 2

[Text] Kim Si-chung, minister of science and technology, will participate in the 37th general meeting of the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA] that will be held in Vienna, Austria on 27 September. It was revealed on 24 September that he will propose joint international management of nuclear materials possessed by the countries of the world.

In connection with North Korea's nuclear issue, Minister Kim explained: "The ROK does not want North Korea to be isolated internationally, which is the current

situation. If North Korea's nuclear transparency is guaranteed, it will be possible to carry out on a full-scale South-North scientific and technological cooperation, including cooperation in the field of atomic energy. The preconditions for this is for North Korea to return completely to the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty and accept inspection by the IAEA."

Strong Winds Delay 24 Sep Uribyol II Launch

SK2509033993 Seoul YONHAP in English 0311 GMT 25 Sep 93

[Text] Taejon, Sept. 25 (YONHAP)—The launch of South Korea's second scientific satellite has been delayed to Sunday at 10:27 AM KST from Saturday morning due to bad weather, a spokesman for the satellite research center in Taeduk science town said Saturday.

A tropical storm with winds gusting up to 30 meters a second was buffeting the launch site in French Guiana and had delayed the blast-off of the French Ariane rocket carrying Uribyol (our star) II for a day, the spokesman said.

The launch window for the satellite to be placed in the correct orbit required lift-off at around 10:27 AM, he said.

The launch was delayed for five minutes until 10:37 AM, when the launch team decided to put it off until Sunday as the weather didn't look up.

Uribyol, carrying two cameras, a 32-byte computer, a particle detector, an infrared ray locator and various communications equipment, will be lofted into an orbit 820 kilometers high and circle the globe once every 101 minutes for weather observation and communications tests.

It was initially scheduled for launch on Sept. 1, but there was a delay of more than three weeks due to a technical problem in a French satellite.

The satellite team made improvements to Uribyol II with the know-how from the successful launch of the first satellite in August last year and used 827 made-in-Korea accessories, including computer memory chips and transistors, out of a total of 12,165 parts.

Satellite 'Successfully Launched'

SK2609032993 Seoul YONHAP in English 0312 GMT 26 Sep 93

[Text] French Guiana, South America, Sept. 26 (YONHAP)—South Korea's second scientific satellite 'Uribyol II (Our Star)' was successfully launched on Sunday morning at the launch site in French Guiana, South America.

The launch of French 'Ariane V 59 Rocket' carrying the satellite was delayed two times due to some problems at the battery system of the rocket's fuel device before

scientists at the site removed the problems and managed to launch the rocket at 10:45:01 AM KST, about 18 minutes later than the scheduled time.

The rocket was initially scheduled for launch on Sept. 1, but there was the first delay of more than three weeks due to a technical problem in a French satellite until Saturday, when the launch had to be put off again because of bad weather.

The rocket entered an orbit 820 kilometers high 16 minutes and 46 seconds after the launch and 'Uribyol II' was separated from the rocket 6 minutes and 10 seconds later.

Uribyol, carrying two cameras, a 32-byte computer, a particle detector, an infrared ray locator and various communications equipment, circle the globe once every 101 minutes for weather observation and communications tests.

The satellite team made improvements to Uribyol II with the know-how from the successful launch of the first satellite in August last year and used 827 made-in-Korea accessories, including computer memory chips and transistors, out of a total of 12,165 parts.

It cost about 3.12 billion won (about 3.86 million U.S. dollars) for South Korean scientists to make and launch the satellite.

First Transmission Received

SK2709022193 Seoul YONHAP in English 0118 GMT 27 Sep 93

[Text] Taejon, South Korea, Sept. 27 (YONHAP)—South Korea's second science satellite, Uribyol II, made its first contact with earth Sunday night after more than 10 hours in orbit.

The Korea Advanced Institute of Science and Technology (KAIST) Satellite Research Center activated the satellite's transmission system at 9:03 P.M. as Uribyol passed over the Korean peninsula and the first message arrived 8 minutes and 35 seconds later, center officials said Monday.

The message was not received by the center's earth station, however, which thought that the transmission had failed, but by a mobile station about 100 meters away. Kim Il-tae, a researcher with the KAIST, caught the transmission on his notebook computer in the mobile station.

The information captured by the notebook computer was taken to the earth station, where it is under close analysis. Officials said it includes the internal and external temperatures of the satellite, the state of the solar battery operation and other details of the satellite's activities.

The country's second science satellite was successfully put into orbit earlier Sunday from French Guiana on an Ariane V 59 rocket.

President Kim Yong-sam hailed the success, sending a message of congratulations to the scientists who took part in the ambitious project.

The earth station and satellite are to exchange transmissions five to six times a day, whenever it is over the Korean peninsula.

Uribyol is tumbling off direction, however, due to a shock during separation from the launch vehicle, but it is expected to return to course bit by bit during the next two weeks in response to instructions from the earth station.

Real experiments will begin after the satellite, set on proper course, turns its boom outward and sets its camera toward earth, officials said.

Meanwhile, scientists from the Chinese Academy of Space Technology (CAST) closely watched the whole process as they got ready to conclude a contract with KAIST on joint production of Uribyol III.

CAST and KAIST are to sign the contract Tuesday, when China celebrates its national day at the Taejon Expo, to co-produce a 350kg science satellite, about eight to nine times heavier than Uribyol II.

Democratic Party Considers Changing Agenda

SK2509021693 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English
25 Sep 93 p 2

[Text] In an abrupt turnaround of party position, the opposition Democratic Party [DP] is considering, albeit for the time being, to stop urging the clearing up of misdeeds committed during the past governments.

Party leader Yi Ki-taek is reportedly planning to announce shelving the party demand in a speech before the Assembly slated for late next month.

Yi appears to be considering quitting the party demand in view of the opinions in and outside the party expressing concern over the possible ill effect in case the party dwells on the past incidents, a party source said.

He indicated that former DP leader Kim Tae-chung revealed that it would be better for the party to turn its eyes to the current sagging economic problems when he met Yi exclusively.

In addition to the party demand for clarification of the so-called three suspicious cases—Yulgok arms buildup project, Peace Dam construction and Dec. 12 mutiny—the party has also taken issue with the abduction of former opposition leader Kim in 1973.

The party has called on former Presidents Chon Tu-hwan, No Tae-u and ruling Democratic Liberal Party representative Chairman Kim Chong-pil take witness stand before the Assembly for testimony in connection with the past wrongdoings.

The party is reportedly planning to call on President Kim Yong-sam to wrap up the past cases in a clear-cut manner by the end of this year.

The party, instead, is poised to concentrate party efforts to prepare measures to compensate the adverse impact of the mandatory use of real names in all financial transactions and other pending issues related to the livelihood of the people.

It is also ready to exert added efforts to revise what it termed undemocratic laws such as National Security Law and the laws governing the Agency for the National Security Planning.

Yi plans to hold a press conference on the party's counter steps to cope with the sluggish economy.

In connection to this, party Spokesman Pak Chi-won said, "It is true that Yi has been asked to quit sticking to the past problems any longer from some party lawmakers."

They assert the party should absorb in preparing measures to cope with the economic issues, deliberation of the budget for next year and the Assembly inspection of state affairs, Pak said.

"But Yi has yet to decide whether he would clarify the new party position in his speech before the Assembly. Other party leaders oppose the idea," he added.

A party lawmaker said, "It is totally wrong to shelve the party demand in that the party has asserted that there can be no reform in the true sense without clearing up the past irregularities."

Minister O Calls for Media 'Self-Purification'

SK2509140393 Seoul YONHAP in English 0936 GMT
25 Sep 93

[Text] Chunchon, Sept. 25 (YONHAP)—Information Minister O In-hwan has called on the media Saturday to start a self-purification campaign and rid itself of corruption by severing links to power and money.

Editorial control should be independent of ownership, he added in a keynote address at a symposium for journalists in Chunchon.

The press should put top priority on the public interest, O said, but Korean newspapers failed to do this because editorial control is held by management.

Putting top priority on the public interest means favoring the majority interest over minority interests, the bigger interest over smaller interests, the general interest over special interests and the community interest over individual interests, the information minister said.

To use public interest as a yardstick with which to measure government policy, the media should reform and purify itself, he said.

The symposium was co-sponsored by the Kwanhun Club and the Korea Journalism Association in commemoration of Choe Pyong-u, who drowned off Quemoy while covering the Taiwan Strait war.

Majority Support Kim's Drive Against Corruption

SK2509034693 Seoul YONHAP in English 0247 GMT 25 Sep 93

[Text] Seoul, Sept. 25 (YONHAP)—Nine out of every 10 people are satisfied with the way the Kim Yong-sam administration is handling its campaign against corruption, an opinion poll conducted by Korea Gallup Co. said on Saturday.

Of the 1,500 people aged 20 or above polled during Aug. 21-Sept. 2, 90.6 percent said the Kim government's anti-corruption drive "has been going well," 47.8 percent said it was broader in scope than expected, and 89.5 percent said it was proceeding faster than expected, according to the survey commissioned by the Board of Audit and Inspection's anti-corruption measures committee.

While 85.3 percent said the drive was different from those carried out under presidents Chon Tu-hwan and No Tae-u in its resoluteness, driving force and will to leave no sanctuary, 5.5 percent said they found no difference.

More than half, or 53.4 percent, named asset disclosures by high public officials the "most efficient" anti-corruption measure while 23.8 percent gave the most credit to the presidential decree requiring real names in all financial transactions.

Asked to assess the intensity of the drive, 53.6 percent said it should be strengthened. By region, people in the Cholla Provinces showed the tendency to support the need to strengthen with 71.3 percent while people in Kangwon Province registered the lowest rate at 35.9 percent in support of it.

Asked to assess the achievements of the drive by sector, 75.8 percent saw "considerable" achievement in the political field. But the rates ran relatively low for social fields, particularly in the education, professional and religious fields.

About the performance of the Board of Audit and Inspection, 49.4 percent gave an affirmative assessment whereas 43.5 were negative.

National Assembly Appoints Chief Justice

SK2509041993 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 25 Sep 93 p 2

[Text] The National Assembly yesterday agreed to the appointment of Yun Kwan, a Supreme Court justice, as new chief justice in a vote during a plenary session.

Of 268 ballots cast 252 were in favor, 12 against, with 2 abstentions and one invalid.

Yun replaced Kim Tok-chu who resigned Sept. 9 amid the whirlwind following the asset disclosure of ranking public servants early this month.

President Kim Yong-sam officially appointed Yun as new chief justice later in the day.

After the plenary session, the National Assembly initiated 10 standing committees to continue deliberation on government budget spending during fiscal 1992 and held question-and-answer sessions with government officials.

In the Home Affairs and Defense Committees, lawmakers from the ruling Democratic Liberal Party and the opposition Democratic Party (DP) clashed over the latter's suggestion to force 10 persons, including Yi Hu-rak, former director of the Korea Central Intelligence Agency, as witnesses to testify before the parliamentary panels on the 1973 kidnapping of opposition leader Kim Tae-chung.

The DP is calling on the government to bring to light all facts about the abduction which took place under the rule of the late President Pak Chong-hui.

In the Finance Committee, some lawmakers expressed concern that the economy is withered following the implementation of the real-name financial transaction system because of the rigid and heavy-handed way the government executes the real-name system. They called for more complementary measures.

Independent lawmaker Yim Chun-won claimed that the Korean Customs Administration has intentionally exempted Korean Air (KAL) and Asiana Airlines of a total of 12.1 billion won of custom duty which should have been levied when the two national flag carriers purchased new airliners.

Former President Sued for 'Collective Robbery'

SK2709100593 Seoul YONHAP in English 0715 GMT 27 Sep 93

[Text] Seoul, Sept. 27 (YONHAP)—The Kukje group restoration headquarters on Monday filed a lawsuit charging former President Chon Tu-hwan and the owners of the Hanil group, Kukdong Engineering and Construction Co. and Tongkuk Steel Mill with "collective robbery."

The suit, filed with the prosecution in the name of former Kukje group Chairman Yang Chong-mo, charges that Chon, Hanil Chairman Kim Chong-won, Tongkuk Chairman Chang Sang-tae and Kukdong Chairman Kim Yong-san collaborated to dismantle the Kukje group through abuse of power and then illegally divided the group's property among themselves.

The constitution court ruled in July that Chon's order to disband the Kukje group in 1985 was unconstitutional, and the headquarters has since been collecting evidence to support its charges against the four.

A headquarters official expressed hope that the prosecution would immediately start investigating the case on the basis of the constitution court's ruling and bring to light the truth.

Ambassador to Thailand Reportedly Resigns

*SK2709095893 Seoul YONHAP in English 0651 GMT
27 Sep 93*

[Text] Bangkok, Sept. 27 (YONHAP)—South Korean Ambassador to Thailand Han Tak-chae intends to resign, an embassy official said Monday.

The official said that the ambassador appeared to have made his decision not because of problems involving with his personal assets, but because he was reported to have been named one of the foreign envoys whose job performance was deemed unsatisfactory.

Han, 58, did not preside over a weekly staff meeting on Monday, the official said, on condition of anonymity.

Han and his family have just moved into the ambassador's residence in the embassy compound, renovated over a period of three years. Some Koreans living in Bangkok privately say the ambassador's residence is too luxurious.

[Seoul YONHAP in English at 0749 GMT on 27 September on a related Seoul-dated report says: "The Foreign Ministry said on Monday that it has no indication that Ambassador to Thailand Han Tak-chae will resign.

"We have not received any formal notice from him," the ministry official in charge of personnel matters said in response to news reports from Bangkok that the ambassador had expressed willingness to resign.

"Han is said to be facing a reprimand as a result of a secretive presidential team's inspections of major overseas missions.

"The presidential office earlier said it plans to reprimand four mission chiefs for neglecting their responsibilities.

"Ministry officials denied reports that any reprimand is near, saying everyone has to be given a chance to defend themselves."]

Destroyers Depart After First Port Call in Russia

*SK2509021493 Seoul YONHAP in English 0105 GMT
25 Sep 93*

[Text] Vladivostok, Sept. 25 (YONHAP)—Two South Korean destroyers, winding up a historic four-day friendly visit to this Russian port city, left for home Saturday morning.

The destroyers, carrying more than 400 sailors, officers and others, including reporters, are scheduled to arrive at their home port of Chinhae, South Kyongsang Province, at 10 AM Monday.

The Korean visitors met with the Commander of the Russian Far East Fleet, Vice Adm. Mikolayevich Gurinov, the governor of the maritime province, and mayor of the city of Vladivostok and discussed ways to improve economic and military cooperation.

The visitors had opened their vessels to the general public, given reception aboard the ships and held sporting matches. The hosts welcomed the Koreans with receptions and other friendly activities.

The Russians have also taken unprecedented steps to open up an ultra-modern conventional "kilo-class" submarine and training centers for marines and submarine units.

Rear Adm. Yi Su-yong, who led the visitors, meanwhile, took a helicopter trip to the nearby free economic zone in Nakhodka, and exchanged views on military and economic exchanges with the vice mayor of Nakhodka City.

Yi was scheduled to meet with representatives of some 1,500 ethnic Koreans in Nakhodka but the plan was canceled at the last minute because of other public schedules in the city.

Naval Contingent Returns

*SK2709043093 Seoul YONHAP in English 0259 GMT
27 Sep 93*

[Text] Chinhae, South Korea, Sept. 27 (YONHAP)—South Korea's naval mission to Russia, led by Rear Adm. Yi Su-yong, returned to Chinhae Port in South Kyongsang Province on Monday morning after a four-day visit to Vladivostok.

Senior navy officers met with the commander of the Russian Far East Fleet, Vice Adm. Mikolayevich Gurinov, the governor of the maritime province and the mayor of Vladivostok to exchange views on expanding economic and military cooperation between the two countries.

The mission opened its vessels to the Russian people and held a reception aboard the warships. Sailors of both countries competed in sports.

The Russian Navy disclosed its ultra-modern conventional kilo-class submarine and training centers for marine and submarine units.

Yi visited the free economic zone in Nakhodka on a Russian military helicopter and met with the vice mayor for consultations on economic cooperation.

Nakhodka formed a sister relationship with Tonghae Port, Kangwon Province, in 1991.

President Defends Predecessor's Choice of F-16

*SK2509071393 Seoul YONHAP in English 0645 GMT
25 Sep 93*

[Text] Seoul, Sept. 25 (YONHAP)—President Kim Yong-sam defended his predecessor's choice of F-16 jet fighters for South Korea's military modernization program Saturday, saying the model has all the necessary capabilities to defend the country's air space.

"The United States owns 2,000 F-16s and 16 other advanced countries around the world own 1,000 of them," Kim said while visiting an Air Force base near here, "the F-16 will become the centerpiece to our Air Force."

His defense of the choice comes in the middle of unending allegation of deep-rooted irregularities under former president No Tae-u and his aides regarding Yulgok (military modernization) project, especially on the unexplained switch from the originally selected F-18 to F-16.

Kim's aide said that the president has been continuously briefed on the capabilities, price and other comparative differences between the two fighter jet models.

"He confirmed that F-16 does have the right capabilities as our next-generation jet," he said.

Cambodia

Sihanouk Delivers Speech To Welcome Constitution

BK2509072193 Phnom Penh National Voice of Cambodia Radio Network in Cambodian 1300 GMT 24 Sep 93

[Speech by Prince Norodom Sihanouk at a mass meeting in Phnom Penh on 24 September—recorded]

[Text] I would like to pay my highest and deepest respects to the revered samdech supreme patriarchs, Venerable Samdech Patriarch Mongkoltepeacha, and all the venerable and sacred Buddhist monks. I would like to welcome, with my deepest love, Samdech Son Sann; His Excellency [H.E.] Chea Sim; Prince Kromluong Norodom Ranariddh and his consort; H.E. Hun Sen and his wife; H.E. Ing Kiet and his wife; and the princes, princesses, excellencies, and madams who are members of the National Assembly or members of the Cambodian Government. I would also like to welcome all the beloved elder and younger brothers and sisters, children, grandchildren, great grandchildren, and compatriots present here and across the Royal Kingdom of Cambodia. I would also like to welcome most warmly all foreign personalities and friends, including H.E. Yasushi Akashi, present here.

Today, the entire Cambodian people—including Buddhist monks and laypersons, male and female, old and young alike—solemnly welcome a very important and auspicious day in the 2,000 year history of Cambodia, our sacred motherland. [applause]

Of course the Cambodian motherland has regained its honor and dignity by becoming a royal kingdom once again, as in the ancient glorious era—in keeping with the will of the people, the masters of our eternal Cambodian water and land. [applause]

The transformation has been accomplished through the election of the MP's—the Constituent Assembly and the National Assembly. The Royal Kingdom of Cambodia, which was glorious and prosperous during the reign of the Angkor kings, has been linked with the fully independent era of 1953 and recognized as an oasis of peace.

During the reign of King Preah Bat Samdech Preah Norodom Suramarit and during the era of the Sangkum Reas Niyum, the Royal Kingdom of Cambodia was a prestigious state respected by every country in this new world.

In the 1960's, two prominent state leaders bestowed commendations upon Cambodia. H.E. General Charles de Gaulle, a national liberation hero and president of France, said in Phnom Penh on 1 September 1966: We have seen with our own eyes the social development that has come about under the dynamic leadership of the prince. Hundreds of schools, hospitals, and dispensaries; thousands of medium and small enterprises; thousands of kilometers of roads and trails; and thousands of hectares of rubber plantations have been completed by

Cambodian experts and laborers. This is evidence of the strength and size of the developments that have increased constantly every year. [applause]

Marshall Josip Broz Tito, a national liberation hero and president of Yugoslavia, said in (Rimouha) city on 3 May 1970: I have visited Cambodia and I have seen that Cambodia is a prosperous country with good living conditions and advanced industries. Cambodia, under the leadership of Prince Norodom Sihanouk, has strived to develop without outside assistance with the aim of ridding itself of all dangers. [applause]

Venerable Buddhist monks, beloved compatriots, respected H.E. Yasushi Akashi, and all foreign friends, the democracy of the Cambodian nation, with a multi-party parliamentary, was born in 1947. It was in that year that the Cambodian people, with the king's support, organized the first fully free general election to elect people's representatives for the constituent assembly, which then became Cambodia's Parliament. Our 1947 Constitution was a fully democratic and liberal constitution for the people; Cambodia took the French Fifth Republic's Constitution as a model for our Cambodian constitution. The 1947 Constitution provided Cambodian women with political freedom equal to that of men.

It was the Cambodian people who elected the Sangkum Reas Niyum regime to assume state power in 1955. This was done through free general elections under the supervision of the International Control Commission, with India as president and Canada and Poland as members. The regime gave Cambodian women, via the Constitution, both political and social rights and freedoms, as well as equality with men in all domains. Along with this, the Sangkum Reas Niyum regime, through the Constitution, also established the National Congress that met every four months and was one of the biggest popular forum for people—male and female, old and young alike—to address questions freely to those holding power in the legislative, executive, and judicial branches as well as important cadres responsible for national, municipal, and provincial administrations. [applause]

Therefore, as of 24 September 1993, we dare confirm that sacred Cambodia and all the beloved Cambodian people have acquired the most democratic and liberal constitution and that our Cambodian motherland proudly places itself among the most genuinely democratic countries of the world.

The 120 elected MP's in the Constituent Assembly have produced a constitution that is a masterpiece of Cambodia's fundamental law, taking into account all aspects of human rights—meaning the rights of men, women, and children—and all authentic liberal democratic aspects and state sectors. This will allow the state to perform its national and international tasks perfectly, correctly, and sincerely. The Constitution is a supreme law that elevates the image of our Cambodia as a state endowed with peace, freedom, justice, and progress and as a nonaligned and neutral state loyal to the Bandung panhcha sila [five

Buddhist commandments] and takka sila [Buddhist tenets of logic], and to the (?concept) of the Nonaligned Movement, of which the Royal Kingdom of Cambodia has the honor of being a historic founding member.

Our new Constitution, whose content is well-defined and clear, is a blueprint unequivocally showing that its authors are broadly competent and qualified and are highly and genuinely patriotic, honest, and loyal to our Cambodia's supreme cause and vital interests. [applause]

I wish to commend all my beloved compatriots who have taken part in achieving this historic victory by painstakingly pondering to shape this Constitution, which represents a just pride and satisfaction of the Cambodian people and nation and the Cambodian and foreign human rights associations. The promulgation and application of our 1993 Constitution constitute an opportunity for the Cambodian people, National Assembly, royal government, administration, and national Armed Forces to gain all appropriate means in order to give correct answers to the peace process and the rehabilitation, reconstruction, and redevelopment of our nation with national independence and freedom. Also, it allows them to obtain affectionate sentiments, friendship, support, and all sorts of aid from the international community. To achieve this task, our Cambodian people have encountered all manner of great obstacles and faced terrible suffering for a long time. The Cambodian people have made all kinds of sacrifices in order to wrest back this very advanced democracy. It is in this ultimate stage of democracy that the Cambodian people have become the only source and true masters of all power. From now on, the people return to becoming the masters of their own destiny. [applause]

Revered and sacred Buddhist monks, beloved compatriots, respected H.E. Yasushi Akashi, and all esteemed foreign friends, the Royal Kingdom of Cambodia, the Cambodian people, the Cambodian National Assembly, the Cambodian royal government, and I can never forget the truly friendly countries, heads of state, government, and nations as well as the United Nations led by distinguished Secretaries General H.E. Perez de Cuellar and H.E. Butrus Butrus- Ghali, the UN Security Council, UN agencies, humanitarian and non-governmental organizations, and generous individuals for their good deeds, and support. We would like to thank them profoundly and eternally.

We would like to especially thank and extol, with the warmest affection and regards, the civilian and military UNTAC [UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia] staff members, and H.E. Yasushi Akashi—a talented leader whom the Cambodian people highly commend and love—and his aides, including H.E. Behrooz Sadry and H.E. General John Sanderson. We will inscribe in our hearts the support and services rendered by the armed forces of the friendly countries from the five continents in order to save Cambodia and the Cambodian people with the implementation of the historic 23 October 1991 Paris peace accord. We will remember respectfully the great sacrifices made by the civilian and military UNTAC personnel, who have heroically devoted their

lives to safeguarding and bringing about peace which is vital for Cambodia, as well as democracy and human rights on our wonderful land of Angkor.

Without conviction, generosity, and brave and courageous determination from the part of H.E. Butrus Butrus-Ghali, H.E. Yasushi Akashi, H.E. Gen. John Sanderson, and the entire UNTAC, the general elections for the Constituent Assembly in May 1993 would have failed miserably. This failure would certainly have caused Cambodia, our star-crossed motherland, and our unfortunate Cambodian people, to fall into endless suffering, pains, disgrace. Cambodia and the Cambodian people would have certainly plunged into a mortal abyss. In other words, they could not have been able to revive in full independence, territorial integrity, and freedom as today. [applause] This is the truth, a history that no one can deny. This is a mission that most people regarded as impossible but it has turned into a true success thanks to the heroism of the brave and courageous UN members. In the past, we saw difficult, impossible missions that ended successfully only movies. On behalf of all of Cambodia, I would like to extend, with the most wholehearted thanks, the warmest and deepest congratulations to those UNTAC heroes.

Beloved compatriots, before concluding my speech, I am honored to express, on behalf of the royal family, the most profound and passionate gratitude to all the respected and beloved compatriots who have been most generous and equitable in rendering justice to the Cambodian king and throne. The justice-loving spirit along with the great support from the entire Cambodian people has brought happiness, glory, and unity, with independence and territorial integrity, to our nation and motherland. Thanks to the fellow compatriots and all the distinguished representatives of the people, the monarchy has returned to our national community according to tradition so as to again help, protect, and serve our respected and beloved compatriots and people. However, the monarchy will last and be beneficial to our motherland, nation, religion, and people only when this monarchy can develop appropriately along with the Cambodian motherland and people. In other words, this monarchy should pay meticulous attention to the requests, aspirations, and needs of the country, the nation, and the entire people. For this reason, at the end of the 20th century, we have to make our monarchy a constitutional monarchy with the king reigning but not holding power. [applause] He is also the first guarantor of the eternity of the people's power.

Beloved compatriots. In my capacity as the Cambodian head of state, I am honored to promulgate the Royal Kingdom of Cambodia's new Constitution, an achievement made by the deputies representing all of the people. Also, I would like to solemnly declare that, as of now, the Constituent Assembly will become the National Assembly of Cambodia.

Long live the Constitution!

Long live Cambodia!

Long live the Cambodian people, the masters of Cambodia's waters, land, and state power. [applause]

Ranariddh Addresses Meeting

BK2509095393 Phnom Penh National Voice of Cambodia Radio Network in Cambodian 0430 GMT 25 Sep 93

[Address by Prince Kromluong Norodom Ranariddh, first prime minister of the Royal Government of Cambodia, at a 24 September assembly held in front of the Royal Palace to welcome the Constitution—recorded]

[Text] My respects to the prince father, revered and beloved head of state and father of the nation; to the most esteemed queen; to Supreme Patriarch Bua Kri, Venerable Patriarch Khousananda, Venerable Patriarch Pouthiveang, and all clergymen; to Samdech Son Sann, chairman of the National Assembly, His Excellency [H.E.] Chea Sim, first vice chairman, and H.E. Ing Kiet, second vice chairman; to H.E. Yasushi Akashi; and to all national and foreign personages [words indistinct] present here.

We, in the name of the National Government of Cambodia, including the ministers, representatives of the civil servants and military personnel of all levels, [words indistinct], would like to beg for the permission to express our great delight and pride for the opportunity to welcome our revered prince father's return to our beloved Cambodia. [applause]

Today is the most auspicious, historic day for our beloved Cambodia that the prince father, our esteemed head of state and father of the nation, has been so kind as to sign the decree promulgating the Constitution for the Kingdom of Cambodia [passage indistinct] when the prince father was king of the then Kingdom of Cambodia.

All of us still remember very well that after granting the genuinely democratic constitution to his people in (?1947), King Norodom Sihanouk Voraman [Sihanouk's former royal title] led them in the royal crusade to seize full independence from the French authorities until achieving complete success for our beloved Cambodia on 9 November 1953. [applause]

The people throughout the country then gave the prince father the title of father of independence and great national hero, as mentioned in Royal Decree No. 553 dated 7 November 1953. [applause] The international community then recognized and named the Kingdom of Cambodia an isle of peace. [applause]

On this historic day, through the Constituent Assembly—the genuine representative of Cambodia's sovereignty—and in line with the genuine aspiration of the Cambodian people, a constitutional monarchy has been reestablished to enable the Cambodian people—the genuine owners of Cambodian land and waters—to exercise their rights through their representatives in the National Assembly, royal government, and [words indistinct] state affairs with utmost efficiency. [applause]

We firmly believe that the reestablishment of the monarchy and the constitutional monarchical system is the only means giving us [words indistinct] building the firm foundation for building a new Cambodia which is glorious [words indistinct] and developed in all fields. [applause]

We would like to solemnly stress to the revered prince father and national and international public opinion that the reestablishment of the constitutional monarchy in Cambodia has been carried out in a fully legal and correct manner in line with the aspiration of the Cambodian people of all strata and with the participation of all Cambodian political parties which have rallied around the throne and given the full trust and confidence in the revered prince father—the only marvelous person who can lead the Cambodians of all political tendencies toward national reconciliation and restoring peace in Cambodia. [applause]

For this reason, the Crown Council is greatly honored to select His Royal Highness Prince Norodom Sihanouk, father of the nation, and the princess mother as king and queen of our beloved Kingdom of Cambodia. [applause] The Cambodian people of all strata, male and female, young and old alike, would like to express their great joy and sincere welcome to the Kingdom of Cambodia with the revered prince father as king, reigning over the country and providing cool shade for his majesty's subjects. [applause]

We would like to beg for permission to inform the prince father that all of us firmly believe that under your majesty's august leadership, Cambodia's unity and prestige lost in the past over two decades will definitely be restored in this independent and sovereign Kingdom of Cambodia, which will enjoy territorial integrity, peace, and prosperity as in the glorious era of Sangkum Reas Niyum. [applause]

All of us would like to express again our deepest gratitude to the prince father, revered father of the nation, for your tireless efforts made in all areas and for a long period of time to achieve peace and national unity for Cambodia. Although in difficult circumstances due to your illness, out of your thought of the weal and woe and the future of the people who are your children, you have kindly come to fulfill the historic mission of promulgating the Constitution for our beloved Cambodia. [applause]

We, your subjects, your children, will never (?forget) this sublime generosity.

To repay your majesty's sublime generosity, we—ministers, government officials, and all civilian and military personnel—resolutely pledge to firmly unite as one around the throne and to follow the revered prince father's royal crusade to build and make our country prosperous and developed, and to absolutely protect the constitutional monarchy based on the advanced principle of multiparty, constitutional, and liberal democracy. [applause]

Availing ourselves of this opportunity, we, on behalf of the Cambodian people, would like to express our warmest thanks to the international community which, through its direct intervention by UNTAC under the leadership of H.E. Yasushi Akashi, has sought to bring

peace to Cambodia and to implement the peace agreement, thus bringing about the success of the multiparty democratic free election [words indistinct] formation of a Provisional National Government of Cambodia during the recent transitional period.

We pray to the Holy Triple Gems [Buddha, his teachings, and Buddhist bronze], (?sacred beings), and the souls of former Cambodian kings and queens for the protection of the prince father, revered head of state and king of Cambodia, and the esteemed queen. May they enjoy good health and long life up to 100 years, so as to remain the cool shade for their children and subjects. [applause]

Long live the prince father, father of the nation! [applause]

Long live the queen! [applause]

Long live the Kingdom of Cambodia! [applause]

Long live the 24 September 1993 Constitution of Cambodia! [applause]

Agenda of Assembly's 28 Sep Session Listed

BK2709031993 Phnom Penh National Voice of Cambodia Radio Network in Cambodian 2330 GMT 26 Sep 93

[Unattributed "article": "The First Session of the First National Assembly"]

[Text] The National Assembly of the Kingdom of Cambodia, which succeeds the Constituent Assembly, will hold the first session of the first legislature on 28 September.

The session will elect the National Assembly leaders, namely the chairman and vice chairmen, for a five-year term. This selection will proceed through a vote of confidence from the 120 MP's. It can be assumed beforehand that the candidates vying for the post of the National Assembly chairman will probably include Samdech Son Sann, former chairman of the Constituent Assembly and chairman of the Buddhist Liberal Democratic Party; His Excellency [H.E.] Chea Sim, former first vice chairman of the Constituent Assembly and chairman of the Cambodian People's Party; and H.E. Ing Kiet, former second vice chairman of the Constituent Assembly and member of the FUNCINPEC [National United Front for an Independent, Neutral, Peaceful, and Cooperative Cambodia] party.

Analysts have not speculated or assessed who will become the chairman or vice chairmen. However, great pride is expressed by all for Samdech Son Sann, H.E. Chea Sim, and H.E. Ing Kiet on their ability, ingenuity, and experience to lead the National Assembly. Therefore, certainly no disappointment or pessimism will be felt if any one of these three excellencies is given an overwhelming vote of confidence by the 120 MP's to become the new National Assembly chairman.

Another issue relating to this election of the National Assembly chairman and vice chairmen comes to mind when one thinks of the compromise that will be needed before the vote, as was needed in choosing the government formula with Prince Kromluong Ranariddh as first prime minister and H.E. Hun Sen as second prime minister.

This first session will also create a number of National Assembly commissions to handle affairs during the intervals between sessions which, according to the law, should be held twice every year. It is still fresh in our memory that during the recent constitutional debates, a number of MP's proposed the inclusion into the constitution a law permanently creating a human rights organization. However, the majority of MP's preferred the creation of National Assembly commissions instead. Therefore, the issue of the Human Rights Commission will probably be raised at the session. It is not yet known how many days the session will last. But, according to a source in the National Assembly, the general feeling is to take as little time as possible. This is because, on the one hand, time is needed for the formation of a national government whose head will be appointed by the king with the agreement of the National Assembly chairman. On the other hand, the head of the national government of the Kingdom of Cambodia, namely His Royal Highness Prince Kromluong Norodom Ranariddh as first prime minister and H.E. Hun Sen as second prime minister, will soon have to go to New York City to attend the 48th session of the United Nations General Assembly. There, the Cambodian Government will make a speech on peace, national reconciliation, and free and fair elections that have turned Cambodia into an independent, sovereign, and democratic state with territorial integrity. They will ask official recognition for Cambodia from all countries in the world. The issue of rehabilitation and development aid to Cambodia will probably be mentioned there as well.

KR Radio Welcomes Sihanouk Ascension to Throne

BK2609041893 (Clandestine) Voice of the Great National Union Front of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 25 Sep 93

[Text] The prince father, upon his arrival at Pochentong Airport on the afternoon of 23 September, said that the importance of his ascension to the throne is that it will restore national reconciliation. The statement represents the aspiration of the entire Cambodian nation and people. Our nation and people welcome the monarchy with His Royal Highness Prince Norodom Sihanouk as king. The prince father is the only person capable of prodding all national forces into national reconciliation. Our entire nation and people support the prince father in his mission to achieve national reconciliation and allow our nation to muster sufficient national forces to solve the countless problems facing our nation's survival.

Philippines

De Villa: Defense Doctrine To Stress U.S. Ties

BK2209023493 Manila BUSINESS WORLD in English 20 Sep 93 p 16

[Report by Wilfredo G. Reyes]

[Text] Manila's changing defense doctrine will continue to stress cooperation with Washington even as the former is attempting to adopt a credible unilateral external defense posture for the 1990's.

In his speech during the 14th Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) Reservist Day celebrations yesterday, Defense Secretary Renato S. De Villa disclosed the country's defense establishment has "just completed the review of our defense strategic plans and has rewritten its basic documents."

"We are very much into the study of our defense doctrines and strategies because we are moving towards the direction of a more unilateral defense strategy and program development," he said, while declining to go into details.

However, he clarified that the development of a credible unilateral external defense doctrine will not exclude Manila's continued joint-cooperation with the defense establishments of its allies, particularly Washington. In fact, he emphasized the national leadership considered both thrusts as being inseparable.

"We have always been following a two-track planning," he explained.

"One is a unilateral defense program and doctrine for the Philippines and the other one is a joint defense program."

"So, we're staying on in giving great emphasis to unilateral defense program planning without disregarding the Mutual Defense Treaty and the Mutual Defense Board."

Indicative of the continuing stress on cooperation with Washington's defense planners is the fact that Manila's defense and military establishments have recently submitted a joint position paper regarding the changing RP [Republic of the Philippines]-US military relationship to the Senate committee on defense.

But this changing security relationship, as well as the changing domestic and regional security environments, have prompted Manila's strategists to take a second look at the existing defense plan.

"Ang akala ng marami, walang plano ang AFP for the country's defense na independent from the Oplan 1-83 [For most people, the AFP does not even have a plan for the country's defense which is independent from Operation Plan 1-83] (the mutual RP-US defense of the Philippines)," one general staff officer remarked.

"But the truth of the matter is that we've always had a unilateral defense plan. 'Yun lang nga, ngayon we really have to fine-tune it.' [Unfortunately, we really have to fine-tune it now.]

Another military strategist disclosed recently the emerging new doctrine would further emphasize a more active role in United Nations and Association of Southeast Asian Nations security concerns, the development of a credible external

defense capability, the military's new role in national development, as well as limited domestic security roles in times of "special contingencies."

Mr. De Villa then cited four particular regional concerns the country's defense planners have been closely monitoring.

"In the Asia-Pacific region, there remains the collective concern about North Korea, a seeming arms race among certain nations in the region, and continuing uncertainties in the South China Sea," he observed.

"To our knowledge, the situation in Cambodia also remains uncertain even as we remind ourselves of our modest contribution to the United Nations peace-keeping efforts in this part of the region."

He then explained the defense and military establishments' new roles would require streamlining the AFP into a smaller but more professional force, a modest modernization effort, as well as the development of a more professional civilian reserve force to back up regular troops in the event of extreme contingencies.

Preparation for Phase-Out of U.S. Aid Urged

*BK2709054193 Quezon City Radio Filipinas in English
0230 GMT 27 Sep 93*

[Text] President Ramos yesterday called on the nation to prepare for the eventual phase-out of American financial assistance to the Philippines in the wake of global developments, including the recent crisis in the former USSR. The chief executive, however, emphasized that he will work for continued United States assistance to the Philippine Government during his working visit in the U.S. in November.

In a talk with officials of the Philippine Assistance Program or PAP, Ramos said that while trying to convince friends in Washington to help preserve the U.S. assistance program for the country, he will also invite American investors to do business in the Philippines. The president stressed that his main priority during his working visit will be to tell the Americans to take a second look at the Philippines. Ramos said trying to negotiate for continued U.S. assistance will not be our main effort during my visit; it is still going to be to ask the U.S. to take a look at the Philippines again. We really want more aid, but at the national level we are saying let's put our relationship with the Americans on the bases of more trade, more investments, more tourism, more cooperation, more transfer of technology because we realize that at a certain point U.S. aid will have to be phased out, the president said.

He called on the Filipino people to brace for the time when U.S. assistance has to be terminated. We should be ready to go alone, the president said, referring to the projects that the government has lined up to achieve economic growth by the turn of the century. The chief executive said that the eventual phasing-out of American assistance is a logical development, adding that the United States Government is also hard put to continue giving out assistance in these

times. The president cited the American's own economic needs considering the changes in the global strategic situation. He cited as an example of the recent global changes the political crisis now rocking the former Soviet Union after Russian President Boris Yeltsin moved to dissolve the parliament and called for new elections. But the president did not elaborate on how the present crisis in the former USSR can affect the delivery of American aid to the Philippines. U.S. President William Clinton announced the support for the efforts of Yeltsin to institute reforms in Russia immediately after the crises broke out, provided that these reforms are done in a democratic manner.

During his working visit in the United States, expected to last for about two weeks, President Ramos said he will take the opportunity to invite the Americans to invest in the country. Ramos said he would cite new attractions which will entice the U.S. to return to the Philippines, including the opening of the Subic free port and economic zone. The opening of the Clark Golf Course and the flying of a new C-130 aircraft before the end of the year at Clark, signalling the completion of the cleanup of the facilities runway from volcanic debris among others. The Subic free port in the economic zone in Zambales, certain portions of which have been opened for investments, and the Clark Golf Course, which will open in October 10, were two former facilities of the United States Armed Forces in the Philippines.

Ramos on 'Extreme Concern' Over Moscow Events

*BK2709072293 Manila PNA in English 0505 GMT
27 Sep 93*

[Text] Manila, Sept. 27 (OANA/PNA)—Philippine President Fidel V. Ramos Sunday expressed extreme concern and sympathy of the Philippine Government over the dramatic events of the past few days in Moscow as a result of President Boris Yeltsin's determined efforts to carry out political and economic reforms. President Ramos said the Philippines joined the great number of nations which have expressed categorical support for President Yeltsin and called for a peaceful and lasting resolution of the current crisis.

These nations also expressed the belief that President Yeltsin's reforms should be given a chance to work in order to achieve national unity.

President Ramos, while in Manado, Indonesia two days ago, agreed that such efforts at meaningful reforms should indeed be given due course, alluding to the many nations which are now attempting to adapt to historic economic, political changes brought about by the end of the Cold War.

The Philippine Government itself is currently implementing economic and social reforms designed to establish the framework for sustainable national development under a democratic structure, he said.

China Agrees To Joint 'Development' of Spratlys

*BK2709094393 Manila MANILA BULLETIN in
English 24 Sep 93 pp 1, 8*

[Text] The People's Republic of China has agreed to a joint management and development with the Philippines and other claimant nations of the controversial Spratly Islands.

Rep. Antonio Cuenco (Cebu) said PRC officials have expressed their readiness to negotiate for joint ventures as a "quantum leap" toward resolving territorial conflicts over the island chain located equidistant between the Philippines and the PRC mainland.

As head of the Philippine delegation to the AIPO [ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Organization] general assembly in Kuala Lumpur, Cuenco quoted the Chinese delegation as saying, "let us now shelve our differences and in the meantime go into a joint venture with the Philippines and other AIPO countries to develop the area (Spratly)."

Among those with Cuenco in Malaysia were Reps. Renato Diaz (Nueva Ecija), Rep. Roquito Ablan (Ilocos Norte), and Senator Agapito Aquino.

Ablan reported that Malaysia is currently developing portions of the Spratly group for tourism.

There had been sporadic fire-fights between PRC, Taiwan, and Malaysian forces occupying sections of the disputed territories in the high seas between the Chinese mainland and the Philippines.

The Armed Forces of the Philippines has continuously maintained a military garrison and a jet-capable airstrip in the Kalayaan (Freedom) island group in the disputed territory.

Reporting on AIPO developments to Speaker Jose de Venecia Jr., the Philippine delegation said its proposal to actualize an "Eastern Growth Triangle" encompassing eastern Malaysia, eastern Indonesia and southern Philippines has been adopted by the AIPO committee on economic affairs.

Diaz and Aquino said the move would boost the agreement between President Ramos and Indonesian President Suharto for the growth-triangle.

Ablan said the proposed joint management and development of the Spratlys was embodied in a resolution approved by the AIPO committee on economic matters.

The resolution states that AIPO "invites all concerned to jointly negotiate the management and development of the area by claimant countries."

Cuenco also reported that the Filipino delegation objected vigorously to the conditionalities imposed by the World Bank on strictures on human rights as a precondition in extending economic cooperation and development assistance to Third World nations.

Diaz stressed that Mr. Ramos has reiterated the need for an economic growth triangle in the course of his official visit to Indonesia.

The AIPO economic committee also approved a continuous program to promote ASEAN as a tourist destination to match a similar approach governing the European Economic Cooperation countries in Europe.

At the same time, it also approved to remove administrative barriers, including the scrapping of passports for travel within ASEAN countries, citing the ECC that allows citizens a simple identification card to move from one member country to another in Europe.

AIPO member nations agreed as well to promote tour packages involving the youth, Civic groups, non-governmental organizations, state functionaries "so that there will be interaction in all levels while promoting better understanding and closer relations among ASEAN nations."

The Filipinos dialogued as well with observer countries, including Australia, Canada, Laos, New Zealand, Vietnam and Japan.

Reportage on President Ramos' Trip to Indonesia

Ramos, Suharto Discuss Trade Gap

*BK2609125993 Manila BUSINESS WORLD in English
23 Sep 93 pp 1, 5*

[By Arnold Belleza, senior reporter]

[Text] Jakarta (via PLDT [Philippine Long Distance Telephone])—President Fidel V. Ramos and Indonesian President Suharto agreed Tuesday to narrow the \$149.85 million trade gap between both countries.

However, enthusiasm for the intent to close the trade gap may be a bit difficult to generate as meetings with Indonesian businessmen resulted in their raising concerns over investing in the Philippines.

Reasons given were the oft-mentioned lack of information, the peace and order situation, and the power crisis.

The commitment to close the gap was made during the course of a one-on-one meeting last Tuesday morning between both heads of state, a statement released by the RP [Republic of the Philippines] delegation said.

Trade and Industry Secretary Rizalino Navarro, a member of Mr. Ramos' official party, was instructed to promote exports to Indonesia. Nontraditional products such as leather goods, ceramics, processed tropical fruits, furniture, garments, and textiles were to be given emphasis.

According to the Department of Trade and Industry [DTI], total trade with Indonesia hit \$221.4 million last year. Exports to Indonesia last year totalled only \$40.27 million, while imports registered at \$181.128 million.

Principal Philippine exports to Indonesia for the period were rice (\$8.51 million), phosphoric acid (\$7.27 million), crude coconut oil (\$3.3 million), ammonium nitrate (\$2.48 million), and fatty industrial alcohols (\$2 million).

On the other hand, imports from Indonesia in 1992 consisted of copper concentrate (\$33.56 million), petroleum oils (\$26.47 million), urea fertilizer (\$13.63 million), tire cord fabric (\$9 million), and coal (\$8 million).

The promotion of nontraditional products, the official statement said, is part of the Ramos Administration's strategies to boost the local export industries, with a 15 percent growth rate expected by 1995 if all plans are implemented.

The DTI said that for the five-year period beginning 1988 to 1992, total trade between Indonesia and the Philippines was \$993.31 million, averaging some \$198.66 million per year.

Exports accounted for a total of \$222.5 million (an average of \$45.3 million per year), while imports totalled \$644.2 million at an annual average of \$128.8 million.

President Ramos ends today the Jakarta leg of his five-day state visit to Indonesia with some P7.75 billion [Philippine pesos] worth in joint ventures signed between Filipino businessmen and their counterparts.

In a press conference yesterday afternoon at Wisma Negara (the official residence), the president said his state visit has resulted in concrete agreements that would increase trade and other economic transactions between both countries.

An official statement of the Philippine delegation identified the following joint ventures as having been concluded yesterday:

- a P7.5-billion [Philippine pesos] partnership between the Philippine National Construction Corporation and PT [Company Limited] Citra Lamtoro Agung Persada to build a 46-kilometer superhighway connecting the North Expressway and the South Superhighway;

- a \$5-million (P140 million) joint venture between Sinar Mas Indonesia and Vegeoil Philippines to produce palm oil-based high quality fat and margarine for the Philippine market; and

- a \$4-million (P112 million) agreement between Teletrade and PT Hasrat Abadi on the rehabilitation, expansion, and development of an existing bulk-handling terminal in Limay, Bataan with land and pier-based facilities.

Trade and Industry Undersecretary Cesar Bautista said two other joint-venture agreements have been signed, one involving two fishing firms and another on ship servicing.

Meanwhile, the Setiakawan Alaala Foundation, Inc., in a breakfast meeting yesterday, presented their observations and suggestion on attracting foreign investments.

The group said many Indonesian investors are "somewhat reluctant to invest" because of two factors: peace and order (i.e. kidnapping, the proliferation of firearms, the sensationalized coverage of crimes) and the continuing power crisis.

The reluctance is reinforced by Indonesian newspapers, which "generally publicize the negative about the Philippines such as crime, political grandstanding in Congress, natural calamities, downward projections in economic growth, etc."

Suggestions raised by the foundation include:

- focusing investment promotion on specific target groups such as Filipino expatriate managers of Indonesian firms;
- the nomination of an "investment czar for Indonesia" so that investors will have someone with "high credibility and clout to talk to" plus other such specific investment promotion desks for other target countries;
- continuous updated investment and trade information be sent to target groups; and
- that Filipino managers and consultants in Indonesian businesses be used as conduit for credible information.

In another development, Mr. Ramos yesterday reiterated the Philippines' commitment to the ASEAN Free Trade Area (AFTA) despite fears that its full operationalization may not be realized.

In a press conference, the president said "our government and our leadership, starting from the time AFTA was agreed (upon)...are wholeheartedly supporting the AFTA program."

"We have done our part to bring down our tariffs, get items out of tariff protection according to our own schedule," he said.

ASEAN Secretariat Secretary General Datuk Ajit Singh, in a meeting with Mr. Ramos, said all member countries have submitted their various product lists which are "a vast improvement from the indicative lists exchanged in December last year."

Among the significant developments, he said, are:

- more products have been added to the original 15 fast-track items;
- products previously under the exclusion list are now under normal track; and
- agricultural products have been voluntarily included in the CEPT [Common Effective Preferential Tariffs].

Ramos Speech on Return

HK2409113793 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company
DZRH in Tagalog 0821 GMT 24 Sep 93

[Speech by President Fidel V. Ramos at Davao International Airport in Mindanao upon his arrival from Indonesia—live, in English; italicized passages in Tagalog]

[Text] The Indonesian ambassador, His Excellency (Samsudhari Srigar), the honorable members of the Senate and the House of Representatives, Governors, Mayors, Provincial Board Members, Members of the City Council and other officials from Region 11, *my beloved countrymen, good afternoon to you all, my beloved brothers and sisters:*

Mrs. Ramos, myself, and the rest of our delegation are delighted to be back here on Philippine soil from a successful and significant visit to Indonesia, our next door neighbor, ASEAN partner, and the closest of friends. In Indonesia, we were warmly received as family—as relatives. We held very substantive discussions with President Suharto and his government. The members of our business delegation, including a large contingent from Mindanao, especially Davao City, forged important links with Indonesia's business partners. All of us learned a great deal about Indonesia's perceptions, policies, and Indonesia's way of doing things.

But it is only a pleasure to return to our country from a visit abroad. This homecoming has a special meaning for us as Filipinos, as it does for the people of Mindanao and of Davao. Southern Mindanao used to be called and is still often called the back door of the Philippines. Starting today, it will no longer be the back door of the Philippines. [applause] Today, the president of the Philippines has entered what shall be, from now on, one of the main doors of our country. Mindanao shall be our door to our ASEAN neighbors, with whom our future and destiny lie. It shall be a major gateway for trade, investment, tourism, scientific and technological transfer, and educational and cultural exchanges, and for people simply to visit one another across the fence, across the border.

By interacting among themselves across national boundaries, these hinterlands, of which Davao used to be a part, could pool their resources together and achieve efficiencies and economies of scale that would energize their development beyond imaginable bounds. This is the concept of the growth triangle. But the triangle has been established among Singapore, Mataram in Indonesia's Real Archipelago, and Malaysia's Johor state. Another has been created among north Sumatra, northwest Malaysia and southern Thailand.

During our visit to Indonesia, President Suharto and I agreed to the establishment of another fast area of growth and opportunity among Mindanao, eastern Indonesia, including North Sulawesi, and one or two other neighboring countries. It will be recalled that, during my state visit to Malaysia earlier this year, Prime Minister

Mohamed Mahathir agreed on a similar triangle of opportunity in our border areas. Thus, the polygon is complete. It's now time to implement things. But we are not starting from scratch. Already, the businessmen of Mindanao, eastern Indonesia, and east Malaysia, have begun to reach out to one another, sending trade missions, meeting in economic conferences, attending one another's trade fairs. We have the industrial and tourism estates that our government is at present developing in Mindanao, one of which is right here in Davao City, and another in General Santos City. Also, we have the recent inauguration of telecommunications facilities in Sulu, Tawitawi, in Pagadian and Iligan Cities. All of these are preparatory to the establishment of the next growth triangle, which includes Mindanao.

As a joint initial step toward the realization of that vision, our Transportation Secretary Jesus Garcia and his Indonesian counterpart signed the other day an agreement on direct postal services between Davao and Manado by declaring them international mailing points. President Suharto and I also agreed that a feeder [commuter] airline should service neighboring towns and cities within the region. Moreover, we agreed to upgrade coastal shipping in our respective countries to keep people in constant touch with each other.

To boost trade and commerce, our two governments are considering opening air traffic between Manado and Cebu. At present, there is only one available route, that is between Davao and Manado as serviced by an Indonesian airline, (Borac). However, PAL [Philippine Airlines] and Borac, today, signed a service agreement which now brings our own national airlines into the picture.

Another agreement which is considered the mother of the agreements that we entered into in Indonesia is the memorandum of understanding for the establishment of a joint commission for bilateral cooperation between our two countries. [applause] This was signed by Foreign Affairs Secretary Roberto Romulo and his counterpart, Susilo Sudarman, ad interim minister of foreign affairs. The soon-to-be-created joint commission, which will be composed of senior officials from both countries will oversee the implementation of the East ASEAN Growth Area, whether it be a triangle, or a quadrangle comprising the Philippines, Indonesia, Malaysia, and possibly Brunei Darussalam. Under the joint commission, a subcommittee will be created to discuss specifically problems concerning our maritime border between the Philippines and Indonesia.

As a result of these agreements at a high level, some 27 Filipino fishermen who have been under detention in North Sulawesi were released today, and they are on their way home. [applause] But problems involving our fishing industry need not hamper the growth area that alone affects the harmonious relationship existing between us neighbors.

Another agreement signed was the treaty on the avoidance of double taxation and the prevention of fiscal evasion,

which is intended to further encourage investment. I also discussed with President Suharto other aspects of our trade relations, apart from the establishment of the East ASEAN Growth Area. President Suharto expressed his commitment to narrow the trade gap between Manila and Jakarta, which in 1992 registered a balance of 141 million U.S. dollars in Indonesia's favor. With mutual cooperation, I am sure we will, in due time, balance our trade with them. I have already instructed our Trade Secretary Rizalino Navarro to extend all our support to our export products such as ceramics, leather goods, garments and textiles, including handicrafts, which compose the bulk of our trade with Indonesia.

President Suharto and I also agreed that we should jointly promote investment by providing incentives to the private sector. The promotion of tourism, science and technology, and the exchange of ideas on modernizing agriculture were also taken up during our meeting. We resolved to cooperate closely in international and regional forums even as we reiterated our commitment to the ASEAN Free Trade Area, or AFTA.

Our visit also gave us an opportunity to reach out to the Filipino community and exchange views and impressions with many of them. Our Filipino expatriates working in Indonesia are mostly in the high level of managerial, executive, and financial brackets, unlike in other countries.

We also made a point to call on the ASEAN secretariat in Jakarta as a gesture of reaffirmation of the Philippines' commitment of ASEAN as an institution and as an ideal.

I am convinced that this presidential visit has substantially contributed to the enhancement of Philippine-Indonesian relations. President Suharto and I agreed to adopt measures to strengthen those relations further by providing a favorable political and economic environment for a massive increase in trade and joint endeavors. But it is the private enterprises and the individual businessmen who belong to this island group and other parts of the Philippines who have to decide on and invest in order for all of these plans to be actualized. That is why I am extremely gratified that our large business delegation, and I myself, on behalf of our country, have engaged in many useful contacts with Indonesia's national and business leaders. Some members of our business delegation concluded various joint venture agreements.

In many ways, our visit to Indonesia was devoted primarily to Mindanao's development. As I said earlier, southern Mindanao, the southern part of the Philippines, is no longer a back door but a main door. And you yourselves, the people of Mindanao, must walk and talk through that door and reach out in cooperative endeavor to our Indonesian and other neighbors.

It is now up to us to transform the successful arrangements of this visit to Indonesia to become a living reality for the people of Mindanao and for all Filipinos. It is good to be back. Let us thank the good Lord for keeping

the Philippines safe. *Thank you, all of you, my beloved countrymen. Long live the Philippines.*

Thailand

Seminar Examines Policy on Cambodia, Khmer Rouge

Military Reveals Stance on KR

*BK2509011593 Bangkok THE NATION in English
25 Sep 93 p A2*

[Text] The military has firmly indicated it is prepared to cooperate with the new government of Cambodia, without the involvement of the Khmer Rouge [KR], but refuses to declare the intransigent faction an "enemy".

"We are prepared to cooperate with the permanent government of Cambodia, aside from allowing military activities against Khmer Rouge inside Thailand because we are not the enemy of the Khmer Rouge," a source quoted military representatives as telling a government seminar in Phatthaya yesterday.

It is the first announcement of the military's stance on the Khmer Rouge since the government said it was prepared to take tough action against the Maoist guerrillas if the faction is outlawed by the new government of Cambodia.

Army representatives told the meeting the military had no involvement in any Khmer Rouge military activity, but insisted they would "lunch" with the Khmer Rouge as a personal right, said the source.

Other officials attending the two-day seminar, organized by the National Security Council (NSC), generally agreed that the Khmer Rouge would not be given an executive role in the new Phnom Penh government because of its excessive demands for positions of power even though it had refused to participate in the May general elections.

They suggested the Thai government should be prepared for further fighting inside Cambodia as the political situation unfolds there, but at the same time encourage economic cooperation with the new government. At the meeting it was further suggested that the government and the military combine in a campaign to end Thailand's overseas image as a supporter of the Khmer Rouge.

The closed-door seminar, entitled "The Rehabilitation and Reconstruction of Cambodia and Peacekeeping Along the Thai-Cambodian Border", was called to formulate strategies for coping with the situation in Cambodia and keeping law and order along the border.

Opening the seminar, Deputy Prime Minister Banyat Bantaththan reaffirmed the government's humanitarian commitment to the restoration of peace in Cambodia.

"If Cambodia is sick, it is Thailand that will be infected," he said.

NSC Chief Gen [General] Charan Kunlawanit said the government must bring together support from the government and business sectors to cope with the "new dimension" in Cambodia. Charan predicted that Thai traders who had already suffered from UN trade sanctions against the Khmer Rouge, and Thai businessmen in Cambodia would suffer further as there were indications the new government would renegotiate all previous deals, whether with the previous Phnom Penh government or independent factions.

Charan later told reporters that after the new government is in place, the UN should withdraw to ensure a neutral environment in Cambodia. Charan, a constant critic of the UN peacekeeping mission in Cambodia said the world organization should "empty its pockets on other more worthwhile missions".

The NSC chief said he believed the new Cambodian government could find way to control the Khmer Rouge, which comprised only a minority of the 8 million population, and that the KR would eventually join in national reconciliation as part of the executive legislative or judicial branches—but not necessarily as part of the government.

Foreign Minister Prasong Sunsiri, who also attended the meeting, told reporters that if the new government could not suppress the Khmer Rouge then it should bring them into the fold.

"A naughty boy needs to be closely watched rather than neglected," he warned.

Foreign Minister Comments

BK2509141993 Bangkok Army Television Channel 5 in Thai 1200 GMT 25 Sep 93

[Text] In his lecture on the Thai Government's policy in connection with the Cambodian problem given at the seminar titled: The Rehabilitation and Reconstruction of Cambodia and Peacekeeping Along the Thai-Cambodian Border, Foreign Minister Squadron Leader Prasong Sunsiri said: Despite the establishment of a permanent monarchical government, Thailand will have to watch further developments in Cambodia to see whether the conflict will end because the situation in Cambodia is rather fragile due to the problem of the Khmer Rouge. He reaffirmed that the Thai Government will support and recognize Cambodia's legitimate government.

[Begin Prasong recording] I told them before that we recognize a legitimate government formed through the democratic process. Therefore, if the Khmer Rouge plays no role in the government, we will not regard it as part of the government. We will not, however, interfere in the unrest and disorder inside Cambodia. We will not interfere no matter what may happen in Cambodia. We want to help bring the conflict to an end and create stability,

peace, and national reconciliation in Cambodia. We will do what we can to bring about reconciliation for them. [end recording]

NSC Chief Cited

BK2609025493 Bangkok THE NATION in English
26 Sep 93 pp A1, A2

[By Watsana Nanuam in Phatthaya]

[Excerpt] The withdrawal of United Nations forces from Cambodia without having completed the task assigned to them would leave Thailand with an "unsolved mess" on its doorstep, National Security Council [NSC] chief Gen [General] Charan Kunlawanit said yesterday. Thailand would stand alone as the only country saddened by the departure of the peacekeeping mission.

"We, the government and the Thai people will be saddened after all other countries involved depart Cambodia, leaving behind an unsolved mess for Thailand to confront," he told a press conference at the end of an NSC-organized seminar here.

The UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia (Untac) will wind up its one-year task when it withdraws in mid-November. It has claimed credit for organizing "free and fair" general elections, without Khmer Rouge participation, but has failed to bring true peace to the nation. Three of the former warring factions are now united in the new coalition government, lined up against the Khmer Rouge.

The two-day inter-government agency seminar, titled "The rehabilitation and reconstruction of Cambodia and law and order keeping along the Thai-Cambodian border", was held to coordinate the implementation of government economic and security policies to cope with the new situation in Cambodia.

The seminar concluded that the government should deal only with the new regime in Phnom Penh, cooperating in infrastructure and human resource development, public health and education, Charan said.

At the same time the military should take decisive action to fend off biased world criticism of their tacit support for the Khmer Rouge. Untac has several times accused Thailand of conspiring with the Khmer Rouge, including allegations the military assisted the Khmer Rouge to attack Phnom Penh positions at the Khmer Temple of Khao Pra Vihear, adjacent to Surin, and at CT-1, opposite Ubon Ratchathani.

Charan said during discussion of measures to maintain border security in the light of continued instability Cambodia, it was agreed the military should return intensive fire if warning shots failed to stop shells from Cambodia from landing on Thai soil.

The NSC chief said it was agreed that the military was correct in deciding to disarm all Cambodians crossing into Thailand, and that this action should continue, and

Thailand should provide only temporary shelter for people fleeing fighting inside Cambodia, until their safe return could be ensured. Charan said the government would ask the new Cambodian government to build shelters inside Cambodia to house refugees from internal fighting.

The government should also take measures to alleviate the hardship caused to Thai businessmen by UN sanctions, especially companies with logging deals with the Khmer Rouge. Charan said the government would seek discussions with the new government urging them to honour all previous trade deals with all factions, and to meet any agreements that had not been fulfilled. "They cannot renege on any deal," said Charan.

Officials at the seminar also agreed it was probable the new government of Cambodia would continue to have difficulties with the Khmer Rouge, and would be faced with conflicts of interest within the coalition.

They believed the attitude of foreign powers like the United States, France, Japan, China and Australia would have a far-reaching impact on the political stability of the country. The five countries sent troops and civilians to serve in the 22,000-strong UN mission, the UN's most comprehensive and expensive peace operation. The US, France and China are also permanent members of the UN Security Council, which sponsored the peace plan for Cambodia.

Foreign Minister Prasong Sunsiri, delivering a special paper, warned that foreign interference could take Cambodia back to square one. "Cambodia has already passed out of the dark tunnel. Thailand must help light their path without interfering in its internal affairs. But outsiders could take them back into the tunnel," said Prasong. [passage omitted]

Cambodia Intelligence Unit To Be Disbanded

BK2709021793 Bangkok THE NATION in English
27 Sep 93 p A1

[Text] THE military's special intelligence unit set up to liaise with the various factions in Cambodia is to be disbanded, senior military sources said. Unit 838 was set up about 15 years ago to monitor the civil war in Cambodia and determine what threat it posed to Thailand's security. It had been the military's liaison with the four warring factions, including the Khmer Rouge, but was no longer needed and would be broken up within the next month, the source said.

"The intelligence unit is being abolished because in the military's view the Cambodian conflict ended with the establishment of the interim government and Norodom Sihanouk's return to the throne," the source said. Cambodia's new constitution was signed on Friday by King Norodom Sihanouk immediately before he ascended the throne.

"In the past we have had to contact every Cambodian faction with military bases adjacent to the Thai border," the source told THE NATION. "In future there will be no such unit operating in intelligence."

Vietnam

Man Arrested Trying To Film Fake American POW

BK2709071693 Hong Kong AFP in English 0642 GMT 27 Sep 93

[Text] Hanoi, Sept 27 (AFP)—Police in Ho Chi Minh City have arrested a Vietnamese as he was faking a film that supposedly showed an American POW still being held in Vietnam, the army daily QUAN DOI NHAN DAN reported Monday. Nguyen Quang Thanh, 47, from central Vietnam, was arrested last August 17 while he was making the film with the help of three Cambodians in the Ban Son hotel in Ho Chi Minh City (formerly Saigon). He was using a Russian sailor, identified only as Manulov, to play an American prisoner, the paper said.

The Russian had been tricked into the role by Thanh and his associates as he did not speak Vietnamese and thought the film was about Russo-Vietnamese friendship, the article said. The three unidentified Cambodians fled, but Thanh, who had been sought for allegedly killing his wife in 1987, was arrested.

NHAN DAN [as received] said Thanh had returned to Vietnam from Cambodia at the beginning of August under a Cambodian name, to make the film at the request of "an unknown American woman" he had met there. He was quoted as saying the woman had paid him 1,000 dollars and expenses, and NHAN DAN said the woman had wanted to show the film to families of dead and missing American servicemen "to inflame public opinion" in the United States.

"It is new proof that hostile forces are always trying to prevent the normalisation of Vietnam-American relations," the article concluded, and referred to the recent publication of the "Russian document" which purported that Hanoi was still holding 735 American POWs in December 1979.

The fate of missing Americans is the main block to the normalisation of ties between Washington and Hanoi. Hanoi has repeatedly said it is not holding any live American prisoners.

Further on Visit by Indian Vice President

Meets President Le Duc Anh

BK2409143193 Hanoi VNA in English 1416 GMT 24 Sep 93

[Text] Hanoi VNA Sept. 24—President Le Duc Anh received here today Indian Vice President K.R. Narayanan currently on an official friendship visit to Vietnam.

President Le Duc Anh warmly welcomed the Indian vice president and his party. He expressed profound thanks to the vice president, the Government and fraternal people of India for their precious support and assistance to Vietnamese people in their national defence during the past wars of resistance as well as national construction at present. The Vietnamese leader expressed his belief that the friendly and cooperative relations between Vietnam and India will be further developed on the basis of renovation in both contents and form with a view to bringing into full play the potentials and strength of each country, corresponding to the political background of the fine relations between the two countries.

For his part, Vice President K.R. Narayanan spoke highly about the sound and creative renovation policy of Vietnam. He expressed his admiration at the achievements of the Vietnamese people in renovation, especially in the economic field. He welcomed Vietnam's foreign policy of independence and of diversification of relations, and its efforts in forging strong ties with countries in Southeast Asia and elsewhere in the world, and bringing into play its role of important factor of peace and stability in the region.

Meets Party General Secretary

BK2409144993 Hanoi VNA in English 1434 GMT 24 Sep 93

[Text] Hanoi VNA Sep 24—Party General Secretary Do Muoi received here today Indian Vice President K.R. Narayanan who paid him a courtesy visit during his official visit to Vietnam. The Indian leader conveyed to General Secretary Do Muoi warm greetings from Indian President S.D. Sharma and Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao.

Host and guest exchanged views on the matters relating to the Vietnam-India relations. They both stressed on the necessity to further consolidate and promote the long-standing relations between the two people, and at the same time, to renovate the multi-sided cooperation between the two countries in a more effective way and in conformity with reality.

Vice President Narayanan expressed his admiration at the brave sacrifices of the Vietnamese people in national independence defence, and affirmed that India pledged to promote the multi-sided cooperation with Vietnam.

On behalf of the party, state and people of Vietnam, General Secretary Do Muoi sincerely thanked the leaders, the government, political organizations and people of India for their constant solidarity and precious assistance to Vietnam in the past as well as at present.

He affirmed Vietnam's stance to support India, a big country with a large population which has important position in the developing countries, and which has contributed much to the defence of peace and security in the world, to become a permanent member of the United Nations Security Council.

On this occasion, General Secretary Do Muoi wished the fraternal Indian people success in the building of a prosperous country, contributing to the common struggle of the world people for peace, cooperation and development.

Delhi TV on Narayanan Meetings

BK2509045793 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1615 GMT 24 Sep 93

[Text] Vietnam has reiterated that Kashmir is an integral part of India. This was conveyed by the general secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam, Mr. Do Muoi, during his meeting with the vice president, Mr. K.R. Narayanan, in Hanoi today. We have a report:

[Begin recording] [Correspondent Shobha Rajagopal, identified by caption] In the meeting with the general secretary of the Communist Party, Mr. Do Muoi, the general secretary stressed the need for the democratization of the United Nations and urged that India should be made a permanent member of the Security Council. This is especially because it is a large and important country and Vietnam wanted India to be the voice of Asia and the Third World. He referred to India as Vietnam's elder brother.

The close relationship between the two countries was also stressed by the president of Vietnam, Le Duc Anh. The Indian vice president briefed the Vietnamese president on India's experiments in the field of economic liberalization and hoped Vietnam would achieve success in their policy of doi moi, or renovation, as well. He referred to the successful interaction of the two countries in the fields of rice research and animal husbandry and suggested that they work together in frontier areas like biotechnology and scientific research as well. [end recording]

Tours Southern Provinces

BK2509160493 Hanoi VNA in English 1349 GMT 25 Sep 93

[Text] Hanoi VNA Sept 25—Indian Vice-President K.R. Narayanan left here for southern provinces this morning, continuing his official friendship visit to Vietnam from Sept. 22.

Speaking at the farewell ceremony, Vice-President Nguyen Thi Binh described the Indian vice-president's visit as a vivid symbol of the friendship and solidarity

between the two countries and an impetus to enhance the Vietnamese-Indian relations.

For his part, Vice-President Narayanan said that through talks and meetings with Vietnamese leaders, close relations between the two nations have been reaffirmed. He expressed his belief that the visit would contribute to promoting the friendship and cooperation between the Indian and Vietnamese peoples.

Head of the Presidency's Office Nguyen Viet Dung accompanies the Indian delegation to southern provinces.

Foreign Minister Receives Visiting Danish Prince

BK2309130293 Hanoi Vietnam Television Network in Vietnamese 1200 GMT 22 Sep 93

[Text] Foreign Minister Nguyen Manh Cam recently warmly received in Hanoi Danish Prince Joachim, who was on an unofficial visit to Vietnam. Prince Joachim highly valued the achievements scored by the people of Vietnam in implementing the renovation policy. He also expressed the wish to contribute to improving the development cooperation currently carried out by the Danish organization of (?DAR) in a number of development projects that will be implemented soon.

The Vietnamese foreign minister thanked the Danish prince for his sympathy, and wished that the friendship and close cooperation between the two peoples and Governments of Vietnam and Denmark will be further consolidated and developed in the time to come.

Credit Relay Agreement Signed in Paris

BK2509065793 Hanoi VNA in English 0640 GMT 25 Sep 93

[Text] Hanoi VNA September 25—An agreement on credit relay of 86 million US dollars was signed on Sept. 22 in Paris by Cao Sy Kiem, governor of the Vietnam State Bank, M. Freyche, chairman of the French Foreign Trade Bank and representatives of other 17 foreign banks.

This sum of credit, arranged by the French Foreign Trade Bank with the participations of 17 foreign banks from France, Australia, Germany, Holland, Thailand, Sweden, Britain, Singapore, Kuwait, Malaysia will be used to pay Vietnam's overdue debt to the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

Australia

Keating Attacks French Policy on Farm Subsidies

*BK2309071193 Melbourne Radio Australia in English
0500 GMT 23 Sep 93*

[Text] The Australian prime minister, Paul Keating, has launched a scathing attack on France with policies which are threatening world trade talks. He said French and European leaders had failed the world community and led from behind on issues like world trade and Bosnia-Herzegovina. Mr. Keating accused the French Government of selfishness and disregard for Australia and the world community because of its protectionist agricultural policies. The French stand is one of the main obstacles to agreement of the Uruguay Round of talks on the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade. John (Chavelin) reports Mr. Keating made the comments during a visit to Villers-Bretonneux in Northern France to honor Australian soldiers who died in the First World War.

[Begin recording] [(Chavelin)] Mr. Keating believed the French Government no longer remembers the Australian blood on the Western Front.

[Keating] We remember the sacrifice of those who served and died here...

[(Chavelin)] During a civic reception at Villers-Bretonneux, the scene of the bloodiest fighting and an Australian graveyard and memorial, Mr. Keating confronted a French parliamentarian and asked if Australia could have done a deal before World War I, lives and French liberty in exchange for no agricultural subsidies.

[Keating] ...Many countries used those lost here in France unselfishly for the greater good of this country.

[(Chavelin)] Instead, Mr. Keating said the French Government had now become selfish. [end recording]

Melbourne Lifts Sanctions Against South Africa

*BK2509095493 Melbourne Radio Australia in English
0500 GMT 25 Sep 93*

[Text] There has been a strong positive reaction to a call for the lifting of international sanctions against South Africa by the president of the African National Congress, Nelson Mandela. In a speech at the United Nations, he said the time had come for the international community to lift the all-economic sanctions against South Africa and he urged nations to restore diplomatic relations. President Bill Clinton called for the removal of remaining United States' sanctions and said Washington would take steps to follow lending to South Africa by the International Monetary Fund. The Commonwealth announced an immediate lifting of all remaining economic sanctions and Australia became one of the first nations to respond to Mr. Mandela's call.

From New York, Matt Peacock reports.

[Begin Peacock recording] Foreign Affairs Minister Senator Gareth Evans announced the lifting of the sanctions against South Africa after talking with other members of the Commonwealth and meeting with Mr. Mandela here at the United Nations. The only remaining Australian sanction is an arms embargo, which in accordance with the request by Mr. Mandela, will remain in place until after the election of a democratic government next year. Shadow Minister Andrew Peacock welcomed Mr. Mandela's call saying that sanctions should have been lifted sooner. [end recording]

Official: APEC Not To Become Trade Bloc

*BK2309041193 Bangkok THE NATION in English
23 Sep 93 p B3*

[Text] As Australian Prime Minister Paul Keating was presenting his views on a new trading community in the Asia-Pacific region in Washington, DC, a senior Australian official in Canberra gave assurances that Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (Apec) would not become a trading bloc or an alternative to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (Gatt).

Grant Battersby, executive officer, Apec Section, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, acknowledged that there were concerns about Apec becoming a trade-issues negotiating forum, but he said, "Apec might become a negotiating forum, which would be useful for the members to share opinions. But it will not have the power to impose solutions like the Gatt.

"It's true that Apec could substitute for the Gatt to some extent, but not as a negotiating body in the same way the Gatt is," he said.

Battersby explained that an agreement reached in the Uruguay Round might take some years to be implemented, for instance, while Apec might encourage its members to accelerate actions or implement agreements at a higher level than what had been agreed to at the Round. He added that the leaders meeting would merely be to assure that "money and people will come to the Apec process".

Initially designed to be a consultative forum for 15 economies in the Asia-Pacific region, it suddenly gained international recognition after US President Bill Clinton proposed a meeting of Apec heads-of-state in November this year. The meeting will be crucial for it will take place only weeks before the latest deadline for the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade talks, December 15. Battersby, however, stressed that the leaders meeting will be held separately from the annual ministerial meeting, and that it would be "informal".

Earlier this year, the United States proposed the Apec Trade and Investment Framework, a paper suggesting areas in which members should enhance the cooperation. Since the specifics of the framework remained vague, some members were concerned that the United

States might envisage a free trade bloc, or a forum to negotiate on sensitive trade issues (an alternative to the Gatt).

At last week's meeting of the Australia-Thailand Business Council in Sydney, the Thai delegation informed its Australian counterparts that no matter what Apec became, it should not dilute Asean cooperation with the third countries. Moreover, it should not become a trading bloc in relation to non-Apec countries.

Battersby dismissed these concerns. He said the US-proposed framework is just a "general document" which covers issues such as market-driven cooperation and the Apec conference on trade and investment. It is an opportunity to liberalise trade and investment as well as a working programme on all trade-related impediments, he said.

The details of the framework might be changed, he noted. It depends on what senior Apec officials come up with at the current meeting in Honolulu. The officials, beginning last Wednesday, have been meeting to discuss the draft proposal and the future of group.

The gathering of leaders will add political impetus to Apec. Mainland China earlier announced that it would not participate in any meeting that would imply formal recognition of Taiwan as a separate nation or would signal that its nationalist government is equal in status to Beijing.

According to one account, Taiwan has recently agreed to walk a delicate line by sending its Minister of Economic Affairs Vincent C Siew as a representative of "Chinese Taipei", instead of Taiwan's President Li Teng-hui. China will be represented in Seattle by President Jiang Zemin, its head of state.

Battersby said the ministerial meeting, scheduled around the middle of November, will refine the proposal prepared by senior officials as well as produce a joint statement, as it normally does. Apec leaders will meet on a nearby island.

"It will be the first gathering of Asia-Pacific leaders after the funeral of the previous Japanese Emperor," he said.

The Apec Eminent Persons Group, a collection of independent wise men created to advise the members, recently concluded their paper work, outlining a vision of how to shape the group's trade policies in the first decade of the 21st century. The report is to be presented at the Seattle meeting.

Battersby outlined the areas of cooperation suggested, including an elimination of trade impediments and the harmonization of tariff systems among the Asia-Pacific

countries. Thailand and Australia have been assigned to work on the harmonized system of tariffs, which should be brought in by 1996.

The ASEAN six have experienced difficulties matching their tariff systems in compliance with the ASEAN Free Trade Area agreements. Given the variety of levels of development among Apec members, Battersby admitted that they would have to make serious efforts to achieve a common tariff system, but it was essential to facilitate trade in the region, he said.

Established on Australian initiative in 1989, the group now has 15 members, including the ASEAN six, the United States, Canada, Australia, Japan, New Zealand, China, Taiwan, Hong Kong and South Korea. Next on the list is Mexico.

Battersby declined to forecast whether Mexico would become the 16th member at the November meeting in Seattle. If so, Apec will cover two economic groups, the North American Free Trade Agreement and the ASEAN Free Trade Area.

Some say Apec has yet to produce any benefits for its members, but Battersby argued that in fact the forum has provided opportunities for its members to share business information as well as technological research and development for commercial purposes.

Also, he added, since Apec began discussing impediments to trade, nontariff barriers among members have been reduced by an estimated 20 per cent.

Thais Report on Joint Thai-Australian Meeting

BK2309062293 Bangkok Radio Thailand Network in English 0000 GMT 23 Sep 93

[Text] Thailand and Australia will strengthen their cooperation in solving trade problems. The conclusion was reached at the Joint Thai-Australian Trade Commission, which met during 14 to 15 September in Sydney, Australia. Deputy Director General of the Department of Foreign Trade Bunthipha Simasakun, who headed the Thai delegation at the meeting, says Thai trade in Australia is restricted by Australian concern over hygiene as well as tax barriers and market dumping. Australia also toughens measures against food products to be imported into the country. Food products from Thailand would, however, be allowed to Australia without inspection if guaranteed by the Department of Agricultural Extension or the Department of Fishery. Australia will also allow import of Thai condensed milk. For sweetened condensed milk, it will be allowed if produced from Australia and New Zealand's powder milk.

At the Joint Thai-Australian Trade Commission meeting, the two countries also agreed on more cooperation, including joint investment and joint development projects such as the southern seaboard project.

